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COUNTRY LIFE

On Sale Thursday
DECEMBER 22, 1955

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classified properties

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classified announcements

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 1506

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CXVIII No. 3075 DECEMBER 22, 1955

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

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A CHARMING
STONE-BUILT PERIOD
HOUSE HAVING MANY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

4 RECEPTION ROOMS,
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Main electric light and water.
EXTENSIVE OUTBUILDINGS
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Main electric light, gas, good water supply.
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ABOUT 11½ ACRES

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Each comprising 2 double and 1 single bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, large kitchen.

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First-class range of buildings

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Containing:

3 RECEPTION ROOMS

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KITCHEN. FUEL STORES

Main water, gas, electricity. Modern drainage.

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3 SITTING ROOMS, CLOAKS, 6 BEDROOMS,

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SMALL STABLING. GARAGE.

REASONABLE GARDEN

Main electricity. Central heating. Estate water.

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AVERAGE ABOUT 40 SALMON AND 570 SEA TROUT

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AN ATTRACTIVE WELL-APPOINTED COUNTRY HOUSE On 2 floors only.

Lounge hall, 4 reception rooms, compact domestic offices, 5 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 staff bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Automatic oil-fired central heating. Main services.

GARAGE FOR 4 CARS

STABLING, STUDIO

Entrance Lodge with bathroom.

Matured gardens, kitchen garden run on market garden lines, orchard, woodland.

ABOUT 8½ ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (53,258 S.C.M.)

BETWEEN LEATHERHEAD & BOOKHAM

Rural setting 250 feet up with delightful views. London 20 miles.

A compactly planned, easily-run, Modern House in good order throughout.

3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms (2 with basins), bathroom. Automatic central heating system. Main electric light, power, gas and water. Septic tank drainage.

2 GARAGES

Secluded, well-timbered gardens. Excellent kitchen garden and numerous fruit trees.

ABOUT 2½ ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (53,443 S.C.M.)

BERKS—BUCKS BORDER

IN UNSPOILED VILLAGE, WINDSOR 3 MILES

With 45 minutes train service to London.

TUDOR PERIOD HOUSE, well modernised and in good order throughout.

Drawing room (35 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. 6 in.), 2 other reception rooms, 6 bed and dressing rooms (basins h. and c.), 2 bathrooms.

Central heating.

Main electric light and water.

DOUBLE GARAGE. WELL LAID-OUT GARDENS

IN ALL 1½ ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (53,302 K.M.)

MAYfair 3771 (15 lines)

20, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1
HEREFORD OFFICE: 22 HIGH TOWN (Tel. 5160)

Telegrams: "Galleries, Wesdo, London"

1, STATION ROAD, READING

READING 54055 (4 lines)

NICHOLAS

(ESTABLISHED 1882)

4, ALBANY COURT YARD, PICCADILLY, W.1

REGENT 1184 (3 lines)

THE OLD MANOR, UPPER LAMBOURN, BERKSHIRE

ADJOINING THE LAMBOURN DOWNS WITH GALLOPS AND FIRST-RATE HACKING COUNTRY. HUNTING WITH THE OLD BERKS AND CRAVEN

A CHARMING SMALL PERIOD HOME OR TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT

5 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS.

3 RECEPTION ROOMS (one 28 ft. by 17 ft.).

OFFICES

Central heating.

Main services.

20 MODERN LOOSE BOXES

or more available.

INTERESTING GARDEN PARTLY WALLED

PADDOCK

4½ ACRES

FOR SALE £8,750

Joint Sole Agents: DREWEATT, WATSON & BARTON, Market Place, Newbury (Tel. 1), and NICHOLAS, as above.

LIME TREE COTTAGE, GORING-ON-THAMES

Thames-side favourite village (R.C. church and station for London).

FASCINATING HOUSE

In quiet, central position, originally 2 cottages and ideal also for such use. Large living room 30 ft. long, dining room, study, cloakroom, kitchen, 4 good bedrooms, large dressing room and 2 bathrooms, useful second-floor bedrooms above each half. Mains. Garage. Beautiful (but small) old garden. **£6,000**

IN A LOVELY COUNTRY SETTING

SOUTH BERKSHIRE

Between Reading and Newbury and handy for Douai School and Bradfield College.

A COLONIAL-STYLE HOUSE

on high ground with magnificent views.

THE ACCOMMODATION (all one floor) comprises a fine lounge hall, a drawing room 31 ft. long, dining room, 3 main bedrooms and a maid's bedroom, 2 bathrooms, a wing of 3 small rooms (formerly billiard room).

Pleasing garden with tennis court, 2 small paddocks, valuable oak woodland.

IN ALL NEARLY 7 ACRES

GARAGE

Main electric light and power. Main drainage.

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,750

Excellent cottage optional.

Apply: Reading Office.

FRAMPTONS HOUSE, EAST HENDRED

West Berkshire (London accessible daily from Didcot 5 miles).

GEORGIAN HOUSE

in lovely old-world village between Newbury and Oxford with excellent bus services. 3 large reception rooms, office, 5 main bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 secondary bedrooms. Mains. Wonderful old grounds, garage for 2, and stabling. **£6,750**

HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

HYDe Park 8222 (20 lines) Telegrams: "Selanlet Piccy, London"

KENT AND SUSSEX BORDERS. NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS

EXCEPTIONAL RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE OF 190 ACRES

in an outstanding situation, commanding extensive views.

DIGNIFIED AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOUSE

WITH LIBRARY, LOVELY LOUNGE, DINING ROOM, STUDY, MUSIC ROOM, MODERN OFFICES WITH AGA, 4 SUITES OF BEDROOM AND BATHROOM, 3 WITH DRESSING ROOMS, NURSERY

2 STAFF BEDROOMS AND BATH

Fine panelling and appointments.

Main electricity, water.

Complete oil-fired central heating.

HEATED GARAGE 3 CARS WITH FLAT OVER AND COTTAGE ADJOINING

ATTRACTIVE GARDENS FORMING A COMPLETE SETTING TO THE HOUSE

SWEEPING LAWNS, WALLED GARDEN
SWIMMING POOL
HARD TENNIS COURT
4 OTHER COTTAGES, FARMHOUSE
FULL SET OF FARMBUILDINGS

THE PRODUCTIVE LAND IS ON A SOUTHERN SLOPE, MAINLY PASTURE, THE TOTAL AREA BEING

ABOUT 190 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE AS A WHOLE or would sell residence with service cottages and about 20 acres

Highly recommended by HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.11980)

WEST SUSSEX

In a lovely part, 5 miles from Pulborough.

A FULLY MODERNISED CROMWELLIAN VILLAGE RESIDENCE

Well proportioned and very easily run.

3-4 reception rooms, model offices, staff sitting room and bath, 6 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms (including master suite).

Self-contained 3-roomed staff-wing.

Central heating.

Company's services.

MODERNISED COTTAGE

GARAGE FOR 2

Matured easily-kept garden with lawns and 2 tennis lawns, 4-acre paddock, in all

ABOUT 6½ ACRES FREEHOLD

Recommended with every confidence by Sole Agents:
HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.12805)

GLORIOUS CHILTERNS

Choice and well-sheltered situation 600 feet up, near old-world village; handy for station and under one hour London.

MOST CHARMING AND EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-APPOINTED MODERN RESIDENCE IN FIRST-CLASS ORDER

Hall, dining room 19 ft. by 13 ft., lounge 23 ft. by 14 ft. with oak parquet floor, 3 double bedrooms, single bedroom and dressing room, 2 well-fitted bathrooms and model domestic offices.

Main services.

Central heating and hot water. Sadia for summer use.

LARGE GARAGE, 2 cars, with FLAT OVER

Greenhouse and outbuildings.

Well laid out and easily maintained grounds with tennis court, lawn, flower and kitchen gardens in all over **1¾ ACRES**

FREEHOLD TO BE SOLD

Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. PRETTY & ELLIS, High Street, Gt. Missenden, Bucks, and HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (B.65817)

GORING-ON-THAMES, OXON

Within easy access of Reading, Henley and Oxford.

IN A MAGNIFICENT POSITION COMMANDING ONE OF THE LOVELIEST VIEWS IN THIS AREA

A CHARMING MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER

SET IN BEAUTIFUL WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS OF ABOUT 3¼ ACRES

Entrance hall, cloakroom (h. and c.), 3 nice reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms, model domestic offices, servants' sitting room, etc.

Central heating. Main electricity and water.

Excellent built-in GARAGE, Summerhouses etc. Choice terraced gardens, spacious lawns, flower beds and borders.

FREEHOLD £7,500

Recommended by the Agents:
HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (B.65816)

EXECUTORS' SALE

HAYWARDS HEATH

5 MILES, WITH A LOVELY VIEW OF THE DOWNS.

THE IDEAL SMALL HOUSE

The perfect example of all labour saving, and a kitchen modelled by a London firm regardless of cost.

Janitor boiler for central heating throughout, Sadia for summer use.

Basin in bedrooms. Master suite with bedroom, bathroom, dressing room, 3 secondary bedrooms, bathroom, large lounge, dining room, oak polished floors.

2 garages. Main services. Garden and paddock, in all **2 ACRES**.

Spotless and ready for immediate occupation.

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.65568)

WANTED FOR TWO CLIENTS

GENUINE COMMERCIAL FARMS - 200-300 ACRES EACH

1. DAIRY and MIXED (Southern Counties preferred) 2. BEEF and SHEEP (Bucks-Oxon)

Please send full details to Farms and Estates Department, Hampton & Sons

SUSSEX

High up on eastern side of Findon Valley adjoining golf course.

ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE

Well-fitted with oak floors, flush doors, etc.

Hall and cloakroom, 2 nice reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, half-tiled bathroom, well-fitted kitchen.

Main services.

GARAGE for 2.

Pretty sloping garden of just **UNDER 1 ACRE**

URGENT SALE. PRICE FREEHOLD £6,750

Moderate rates and outgoings.

Inspected by HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.56712)

CHIPSTEAD, SURREY

30 minutes London.

A UNIQUE MODERN (1938) ARCHITECT-BUILT LUXURY HOUSE

500 feet up with magnificent views.

Hall, cloakroom, lounge (34 ft. by 17 ft.), dining room, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Excellent domestic offices.

Central heating.

GARAGE FOR 3 CARS

Greenhouse, summer house.

Matured and timbered grounds of **ABOUT 2½ ACRES**

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Price on application to:
HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (S.65362)

BRANCH OFFICES: WIMBLEDON COMMON AND STATION; BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS; AND BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.

HYDE PARK 4304

OSBORN & MERCER

28b, ALBEMARLE STREET, PICCADILLY, W.1

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

GORING-ON-THAMES

On rising ground, in a picked position with one of the loveliest views imaginable

A MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER

3 reception, 5 bedrooms (3 with basins h. and c.), dressing room, 3 bathrooms. Central heating, main electricity and water. Built-in garage. **Beautifully disposed, well-timbered gardens, paddock, etc., in all about 3¼ ACRES**

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,797)

BUCKS—22 MILES LONDON

Near the station and a frequent bus service, and convenient for Maidenhead and Slough.

A CHARMING SMALL PROPERTY

Recently converted from an old stable block and in first class condition.

Hall, 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom.

Main electricity and water. Large garage.

Secluded and well laid out garden.

RATEABLE VALUE £24. FREEHOLD ONLY £5,000

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,891)

NEAR EPPING FOREST

Within two minutes of a bus service and convenient for the Central Line for London.

AN ATTRACTIVE MODERNISED RESIDENCE

Detached, in excellent order and containing:

3 reception rooms, sun lounge, 4 bedrooms, large playroom (convertible to 2 extra rooms if desired), bathroom. **Main services, part central heating. Garage (2-3 cars).** Well kept formal garden with a number of fruit trees, in all **about ⅔ ACRE.**

FREEHOLD PRICE £6,750

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,894)

COOKHAM DEAN

On high ground with lovely unspoilt views in this much favoured and rural position.

AN UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE SMALL MODERN HOUSE

Well planned and fitted, compact, easily run, and in good decorative order throughout.

3 reception rooms, 4-5 bedrooms (3 with basins), bathroom, shower room. Main water and electricity.

Central heating with "Janitor" boiler. 2 garages.

Delightful matured garden, kitchen garden, orchard, paddock and woodland, in all

ABOUT 2 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,872)

WEST SUSSEX

In a picturesque part of the county within a mile of a fast electric train service to London.

Charming Small Character House

Part 16th century, carefully restored and modernised.

On one floor with 2 reception (one 30 ft. by 20 ft.), 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main electricity and water. Garage and outbuildings.

Park-like gardens, ornamental lake, paddock, etc.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH 6 ACRES

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,880)

BUCKS, 6 MILES FROM BLETCHLEY

In beautiful country in the centre of Whaddon Chase.

A DELIGHTFUL 16th-CENTURY HOUSE OF GREAT HISTORICAL INTEREST

Scheduled as an Ancient Monument

3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Central heating. Main electricity and water.

Garage block with staff accommodation.

Charming gardens, orchard and paddock, in all

ABOUT 4½ ACRES

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (20,813)

Tel. MAYfair 0023-4

R. C. KNIGHT & SONS

130, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

ESSEX—SUFFOLK BORDER

VERY CHARMING 16th-CENTURY RESIDENCE

Full of period features, perfectly restored and fully modernised.

6 BEDROOMS, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, ADEQUATE DOMESTIC OFFICES

Attractive garden bordered by a stream.

IN ALL ABOUT 1¾ ACRES

PRICE £4,250

Full details from R. C. KNIGHT & SONS, Old Town Hall, Bury St. Edmunds (Tel. 135).

HERTFORDSHIRE—ESSEX BORDER

On outskirts of much sought after village within 5 miles of Bishop's Stortford with its service of frequent fast trains to and from the City.

A GENUINE PERIOD HOUSE OF CONSIDERABLE CHARACTER

Hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, modern domestic offices with staff sitting room 6 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

GARAGES, STABLING AND COTTAGE

Inexpensive gardens, kitchen garden, orchard and paddock. **ABOUT 6 ACRES**

FOR SALE AT VERY REASONABLE FIGURE

Full details from R. C. KNIGHT & SONS, 130, Mount Street, W.1. (Folio 3776.)

HERTFORDSHIRE

In the centre of small country town of Buntingford.

GENUINE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE equally suitable for private occupation or for sale of antiques, etc. Entrance hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms (one partly panelled), compact domestic offices, 6 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms.

All main services. Constant hot water.

OUTBUILDINGS INCLUDE BARN, GARAGE, STABLING, ETC.

Charming walled garden, **swimming pool.**

IN ALL ABOUT 1 ACRE

FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION AT A VERY REASONABLE FIGURE OF WHICH £2,500 MAY REMAIN ON MORTGAGE

Owner's Agents: R. C. KNIGHT & SONS, 130, Mount Street, W.1.

And at NORWICH, STOWMARKET, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, CAMBRIDGE, HADLEIGH and HOLT

Chartered Land Agents and Surveyors

W. H. COOKE & ARKWRIGHT

With offices at Bangor, Hereford, Bridgend and Cardiff

24, HIGH STREET, MOLD, FLINTSHIRE. Tel. Mold 190

RHAGATT ESTATE, MERIONETH, N. WALES

2 miles from CORWEN. On north side of River Dee and only ½ mile from main A5 road.

AN AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING ESTATE

with 155 acres of woodlands growing mature timber; also comprising

18th CENTURY MANOR HOUSE, 4 MIXED FARMS

ACCOMMODATION AND PARKLAND

GROUSE MOOR

First-class shoot and valuable fishing in River Dee.

TOTAL 1214 ACRES

THE ESTATE IS FOR SALE AS A WHOLE, BY PRIVATE TREATY

Full particulars from Messrs. W. H. COOKE & ARKWRIGHT, 24, High Street, Mold, Flintshire. Tel.: Mold 190.

ESTATE OFFICES

BENTALLS

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Telephone: Kingston 1001

ESHER

Situate in a favoured position, close to station and commons.

A FINE MODERN DETACHED CORNER RESIDENCE

Parquet flooring throughout Ground Floor.

5 bedrooms and playroom, modern bathroom, separate w.c., kitchen.

CLOAKROOM

Lounge (communicating with) dining room.

GARAGE (space for 2nd garage).

Pleasant secluded garden.

FREEHOLD £5,750

Many other houses of character in Surrey and Middlesex available

Crewkerne (Tel. 546) Somerset

TAYLOR & CO.

Axminster (Tel. 2323-4) Devon

AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS AND ESTATE AGENTS

"THE OLD PARSONAGE,"

KILMINGTON, NEAR AXMINSTER

A PLEASANT POSITION IN A MUCH SOUGHT AFTER VILLAGE

Newly decorated and completely modernised.

4 BEDROOMS, MODERN BATHROOM, 3 RECEPTION

EXPENSIVELY EQUIPPED KITCHEN. DOUBLE GARAGE

ALL MAINS

SMALL GARDEN. PERFECT T.V. RECEPTION

£3,250 FREEHOLD FOR QUICK SALE

Sole Agents: TAYLOR & CO., Axminster (and Crewkerne).

GROsvenor 1553
(4 lines)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)
25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

13, Hobart Place,
Eaton Square,
5, West Halkin Street,
Belgrave Square,
London, S.W.1

BEAUTIFUL PERIOD MANOR HOUSE IN BUCKS

Main line station 1 mile. Close to buses.

The subject of three illustrated articles in "Country Life."

RECENTLY RENOVATED AND MODERNISED AT GREAT EXPENSE.

Magnificent suite of reception rooms including 14th century mediaeval hall. 10 principal bed and dressing rooms, 6 bathrooms and staff quarters.

Main electricity and water. New central heating.

GARAGES. 3 COTTAGES

USEFUL OUTBUILDINGS

Delightful ornamental gardens, woodland and agricultural land (let).

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH NEARLY 60 ACRES

Inspected and recommended by the Sole Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. E.H.T. (6258)

44, ST. JAMES'S PLACE, S.W.1

STYLES, WHITLOCK & PETERSEN

(Formerly JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, LONDON)

HYDe Park
0911-2-3-4

EAST ANGLIA

GRADE "A" AND ATTESTED FARM (T.T.) OF ABOUT 91 ACRES

(mostly pasture and intersected by fast flowing stream)
Excellent buildings, 3 cottages (service tenancies), and

A most attractive residence of character probably 250 years old, but added to and modernised. 3 sitting rooms, 5 main bedrooms, 2 attic bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main electricity and power. Abundant water. Central heating. Independent hot water.

Prolific garden with almost all kinds of fruit trees.

Vacant Possession by arrangement.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. PRICE £12,500

The property is only for sale on account of the owner's impending retirement.

Inspected and thoroughly recommended by the Owner's Agents:
STYLES, WHITLOCK & PETERSEN, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R.26,137)

DORSET—SOMERSET BORDER

Easy reach Gillingham, Wincanton, and Templecombe. Situated on outskirts of small country town.

STONE-BUILT COUNTRY HOUSE IN PARKLIKE SURROUNDINGS

3 excellent reception rooms, 4 main and 2 secondary bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, modern domestic offices, cloakroom; all main services, domestic hot water; mature gardens, hard tennis court, stabling and garage.

About 5 acres in all

PRICE FREEHOLD £5,950

Inspected and recommended by
STYLES, WHITLOCK & PETERSEN, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1. (L.R.27,777)

RAWLENCE & SQUAREY, F.R.I.C.S.

SALISBURY, LONDON, SHERBORNE, SOUTHAMPTON, TAUNTON

WILTS — GLOUCESTER BORDER

TWATLEY, NEAR MALMESBURY

CHARMING MANOR HOUSE

5 RECEPTION ROOMS, 2 BEDROOM SUITES, 7 OTHER PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS, 8 BATHROOMS.

Oil-fired central heating and hot water system.

ATTESTED HOME FARM

of

240 ACRES

MODEL BUILDINGS.

STABLES SUITABLE FOR STUD FARM

SWIMMING POOL.

EXCELLENT ORDER THROUGHOUT. FREEHOLD WITH COMPLETE VACANT POSSESSION

Sole Agents: RAWLENCE & SQUAREY, Salisbury (Tel. 2467-8).

WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO.

17, BLAGRAVE STREET, READING (Tel. Reading 54018 and 54019).

HENLEY TO TWYFORD. Cost £7,500 Price £4,850

Beautifully fitted.

3 sitting, 4-5 bedrooms, luxurious bathroom, model offices, outside billiards or playroom.

All mains.

DOUBLE GARAGE.

Pretty garden, orchard of about 100 trees, deep litter house for 150 head.

About
2 ACRES Freehold

RATEABLE VALUE ONLY £35. Sole Agents.

WEST SUSSEX. Georgian House £4,500

WITH 1 ACRE OR UP TO 12 ACRES

Amidst complete rurality with drive approach, 3 sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, bath. Main services. Garage. Simple garden. Farmery and paddocks.
INSPECTED.

CROWE, BATES & WEEKES

CRANLEIGH (Tel. 200), and at BRIDGE STREET and 183, HIGH STREET, GUILDFORD (Tels. 5137 and 2864/5).

BETWEEN GUILDFORD AND HORSHAM

IN LOVELY SURROUNDINGS.

A CHARMING MODERNISED TUDOR FARMHOUSE, WITH T.T. AND ATTESTED FARM OF ABOUT 76 ACRES

all in perfect order.

Entrance hall, 3-4 reception rooms, modern kitchen with Aga, 4 bedrooms, bathroom. *Central heating.*

Main electricity and water.

DOUBLE GARAGE.

Modern farm buildings including T.T. cowshed for 17.

EXCELLENT STAFF COTTAGE of 4 rooms, kitchen and bathroom.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION

Cranleigh Office.

5, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1
GROsvenor 3131-2 and 4744-5

CURTIS & HENSON

ESTABLISHED 1875

and at 21, HORSEFAIR, BANBURY, OXON
Tel. 3295-6

SUNNINGDALE, BERKS

SMALL COTTAGE

in grounds of Private Estate

Containing:

4 ROOMS, KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

GREENHOUSES. OUTBUILDINGS AND WALLED GARDEN

OVER 1 ACRE

PRICE £2,500 FREEHOLD

Sole Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, as above.

FURNISHED HOUSES TO LET

WINDLESHAM, SURREY

6/7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2/3 reception rooms. Main water and electricity. Central heating. Good garden.
RENT 15 GNS. P.W. for 6-12 months

KENTISH VILLAGE. 35 miles London

6 bedrooms, 3 reception, 2 bathrooms.
6 ACRES
RENT £7 7s. P.W. for 6 months from Feb. 1 next

OXON—above HENLEY (4½ miles)

Very well appointed modern house with 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, sun lounge, cloakroom, maids' sitting room, kitchen. Central heating throughout.
1 ACRE garden. **RENT 12 GNS. PER WEEK**

SEVENOAKS

6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception. Garage. Small garden. Main services, central heating.
RENT £10 10s. P.W. for 6 months

SURREY—REIGATE AREA

4 miles main line station (London 35 minutes). Unspoilt rural aspect facing south with superb views.

COUNTRY HOUSE

Of convenient size for family.

Containing:

3 RECEPTION ROOMS, 7 BEDROOMS
3 BATHROOMS. ESSE COOKER

OIL-FIRED CENTRAL HEATING

Main services.

Small garden and paddock.

ABOUT 6 ACRES

PRICE £4,500 FREEHOLD

Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, as above, or SKINNER & ROSE, Reigate. (Tel. Reigate 4747).

3, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

GROsvenor 1032-33-34

KENT. IN PICTURESQUE RURAL HAMLET

3 miles east of Canterbury, 5 miles from the Coast

CHARMING EARLY GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

With many period features. Completely modernised and beautifully decorated throughout.

7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, compact offices and Aga.

Central heating.

Main electricity, gas and water.

GARAGE FOR 3 CARS with rooms over.

MODEL FARMERY, 2 COTTAGES, WALLED GARDEN AND PASTURELAND in all about **14 ACRES**

FREEHOLD £11,000 FOR WHOLE OR WILL BE DIVIDED

HANTS-BERKS BORDERS

Delightfully situated amidst rural surroundings. Within 3 miles of Hartley Wintney, 9 miles Reading, 35 miles London.

AN ORIGINAL GEORGIAN RESIDENCE (with later addition)

6 principal bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, 2 staff bedrooms, up-to-date offices.

Main electricity and water.

Central heating throughout.

Basins in all bedrooms.

GARAGE. COTTAGE

Well-timbered grounds.
Walled garden.
Small lake.

IN ALL ABOUT 4 ACRES FREEHOLD £7,000

OR EXCLUDING COTTAGE £5,500.

MAIDENHEAD
SUNNINGDALE

GIDDY & GIDDY

WINDSOR, SLOUGH
GERRARDS CROSS

AN OUTSTANDING COUNTRY HOUSE

In a glorious position high up with superb views.

LAVISHLY APPOINTED AND IN IMMACULATE ORDER. 7 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Central heating. Staff flat. Cottage. Garage for 3. Grounds with orchard and paddock, **6 ACRES**

FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

GIDDY & GIDDY, Station Approach, Sunningdale (Tel. Ascot 73).

WENTWORTH, SURREY

A few yards from the golf course.

An outstanding House in perfect decorative order 7 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, model offices. Central heating. 2 garages. Well timbered grounds of about **2 ACRES**

FREEHOLD FOR SALE.

GIDDY & GIDDY, 52, High Street, Windsor (Tel. 73).

CAMBERLEY

In an excellent position, high on the southern outskirts of the town unspoiled by adverse development.

A superb post-war constructed House with 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, breakfast room and labour-saving kitchen. Dust-proof doors. Polished wood block floors. Garage. Pleasant gardens.

For sale at Auction next year unless sold before.

Sole Agents: GIDDY & GIDDY, Maidenhead (Tel. 53).

WINCHESTER
FLEET
FARNBOROUGH

ALFRED PEARSON & SON

HARTLEY WINTNEY
ALDERSHOT
ALRESFORD

HAMPSHIRE

Close to favourite village of Crondall, few minutes' walk shops, church and bus route.

A Well Built Family Residence

5 PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, STUDY, KITCHEN.

Further accommodation suitable for staff flat.

Main services. Central heating.

Useful outbuildings. Matured garden and paddock.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE with possession in the spring.

Hartley Wintney Office (Tel. 233).

A PERIOD FARMHOUSE WITH 100 ACRES

Well situated close to favourite North Hants village.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, CLOAKROOM, 2 SITTING ROOMS AND DOMESTIC OFFICES.

All main services.

Excellent range of farm buildings and staff cottage.

FREEHOLD £14,500 with usual valuations.

Hartley Wintney Office (Tel. 233).

HARTLEY WINTNEY

(1¼ miles main line station at Winchfield)

Compact Residence.

Modernised and brought up-to-date a few months ago.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, LOUNGE HALL, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS AND KITCHEN.

Main services.

Outbuildings and pretty garden.

FREEHOLD £3,950

Hartley Wintney Office (Tel. 233).

WITH FEW BUT LARGE ROOMS

The Wing of a large Country House

enjoying a peaceful situation a few minutes' walk from village on Hants/Berks borders.

4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS AND KITCHEN.

Main electricity, water, gas.

Useful outbuildings (suitable for converting into a garage. Small pleasure garden.

FREEHOLD £1,500. Small paddock available if required.

Hartley Wintney Office (Tel. 233)

23, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

GROsvenor 1441

RURAL KENT WITH 74 ACRES

4 miles main line station. 48 miles London. In beautiful surroundings, facing due south.

GEORGIAN HOUSE. PARK-LIKE SETTING. 7-8 best beds with basins, 2 baths., 4 reception, staff flat. Central heating. Exceptionally beautiful grounds. Home farm. 3 cottages. Valuable woodland. Rich Pastureland.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

SUSSEX 1 HOUR LONDON

OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS MAN

On the West Grinstead side of Horsham. Charming modern Character House in secluded garden with immediate possession. 5 beds., 3 reception, new offices. Central heating. Mains. **1 ACRE.**

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

as vendor is leaving for business appointment.

HANTS—WILTS BORDERS

GEORGIAN HOUSE IN PARK-LIKE SETTING

Unspoilt position, easy reach main line. High up with delightful views. 8 beds., 4 bath., 4 reception (including flat). Central heating. Cottage. Garage and stabling. Fine gardens and pastureland.

FREEHOLD WITH 20 ACRES

RURAL SUSSEX

About 1¼ hours London in perfect country.

VERY CHOICE PERIOD HOUSE

Compact House of 5 beds., 2 baths., 4 reception.

Cottages. Small Home Farm.

IN PERFECT ORDER WITH POSSESSION

HAMPSHIRE WITH 83 ACRES

Easy reach Petersfield, Alton and Haslemere. High up. Good bus service. Adjoining village green.

A CHARMING, WELL-EQUIPPED CHARACTER HOUSE. 6-7 beds., 3 baths., 3 reception. Aga. Oil-fired heating. **Small Secondary House** in perfect order with central heating. **Character Cottage. Small Home Farm,** good buildings. Valuable woodlands.

FREEHOLD. VACANT POSSESSION

Also at 7, Broad Street, WOKINGHAM (Tel. 777)

MARTIN & POLE

(Incorporating WATTS & SON), 23, MARKET PLACE, READING (Tel. 50266)

Also at 4, Bridge Street, CAVERSHAM (Tel. Reading 72877); and 96, Easton Street, HIGH WYCOMBE (Tel. 847)

BETWEEN

READING AND BASINGSTOKE

A DETACHED COTTAGE-STYLE RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

Ideally situated, overlooking commonlands and adjoining the bus route.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 rec. rooms, kitchen. Spacious outbuildings, including pig sties and grounds of about **28 ACRES,** with 4-5 acres under cultivation.

Main electricity and water.

PRICE £4,500 FREEHOLD

BETWEEN

WOKINGHAM AND READING

A MODERN DOUBLE-FRONTED, DETACHED HOUSE

on the bus route, just over a mile from Wokingham.

In excellent order throughout. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, kitchen and pantry.

DETACHED GARAGE for 2 cars and gardens of about **ONE-THIRD ACRE.**

MAIN SERVICES.

PRICE £3,750 FREEHOLD

For details of above, Apply Wokingham Office.

BY ORDER OF MORTGAGEES

MUST BE SOLD

Reading Station 2¼ miles.

A FINE FAMILY HOUSE ON HIGH GROUND

Far-reaching views to the south and overlooking golf course.

6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms. Garage.

Central heating and main services.

Small easily maintained and attractive garden.

£4,600 FREEHOLD

Substantial mortgage available to suitable applicants.

FAVOURITE VILLAGE

NORTH OF READING

In a most sought-after residential area.

AN ATTRACTIVE MODERN DETACHED HOUSE

built of brick with a tiled roof, and affording the following accommodation.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, w.c., 2 reception rooms (lounge 18ft. by 18ft. with inglenook fireplace). Garage and outbuildings. Gardens and paddock of **ABOUT 1 ACRE**

Main electricity. Water. Modern drainage.

PRICE £3,750 FREEHOLD (or near).

For details of above, Apply Reading Office.

CHILTERN HILLS

In the beautiful Hughenden Valley, convenient for High Wycombe main-line station.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF DETACHED HOUSES OF SEVERAL DESIGNS

each in contemporary style, with widespread views over surrounding orchards.

SOUNDLY CONSTRUCTED

Well-planned accommodation. Spacious rooms, well-fitted labour-saving offices.

MAIN SERVICES. LARGE GARDENS

PRICES FROM £3,425 FREEHOLD

PRESTWOOD, BUCKS

On high ground close to village, less than one mile from Great Missenden Station.

A DETACHED RESIDENCE IN A RETIRED POSITION

practically surrounded by delightful country, yet only a short walk from transport services.

5 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms, breakfast room, kitchen. Garage. Secluded easily maintained gardens.

PRICE £3,500 FREEHOLD

An IMMEDIATE SALE IS DESIRED

For details of above, Apply High Wycombe Office.

11, KING EDWARD STREET, OXFORD. (Tel. 48205)

J. CARTER JONAS & SONS

ALSO AT LONDON AND CAMBRIDGE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucester 11 miles, Bristol 23 miles, Stroud 5 miles. Quietly placed in delightful countryside.

SMALL GEORGIAN PERIOD RESIDENCE

ENTRANCE HALL, LOUNGE, DINING ROOM, STUDY, 7 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, EXCELLENT KITCHEN, ETC.

Central heating. Main electricity.

GARAGING, ETC. **2 ACRES** OF GARDEN AND PADDOCK, ORCHARD

PRICE FREEHOLD £5,500. VACANT POSSESSION

J. CARTER JONAS & SONS, Land Agents, 11, King Edward Street, Oxford (Tel. 48205).

Tels. SEVENOAKS 2246 (4 lines) TUNBRIDGE WELLS 446/7 OXTED 240 & 1166 REIGATE 5441/2

IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO.

SEVENOAKS, KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT OXTED, SURREY REIGATE, SURREY

Lovely Rural Area between SEVENOAKS and MAIDSTONE

2 miles station. Maidstone 10 miles, London 25 miles.

Charming stone built Country House.

4-5 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, hall with cloaks (h. and c.), good kitchen.

Main water and electricity.

Double garage. Stabling, etc. Garden, orchard and woodland, about

4½ ACRES

FREEHOLD £4,950

Owner's Agents: IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO., 125, High Street, Sevenoaks (Tel. 2246—4 lines).

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A SMALL KENTISH TOWN

Fast and frequent train services to London.

THIS BEAUTIFUL MODERN HOUSE

4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, hall, cloaks and good domestic offices.

Main water, electricity and drainage.

Pleasant garden.

Space for garage.

PRICE FREEHOLD £4,950

Owner's Agents: IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO., 125, High Street, Sevenoaks (Tel. 2246, 4 lines).

MAYFIELD, SUSSEX

Almost in the village, yet in a quiet and secluded situation, enjoying glorious views.

This charming modern Residence

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, modern domestic offices.

All main services. Central heating.

LARGE GARAGE.

Garden and meadow about **1 ACRE**

ONLY £5,950 FREEHOLD

Executors must sell.

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HIGH POSITION, 17 MILES LONDON

Favoured residential position, 1 mile Caterham Station.

Most attractive and unusual cottage style modern residence.

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms.

Main services. Central heating.

DETACHED GARAGE.

ABOUT 1 ACRE

of matured garden.

FREEHOLD

Vacant Possession.

Recommended by IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO., 67, High Street, Reigate (Tel. 5441-2).

JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

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YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING — **1,380 ACRES MOST ATTRACTIVE ESTATE WITH INCOME OF £1,350 PER ANNUM** *from 8 farms, 6 holdings and village cottages. Modernised house, 9 bedrooms,* 3 reception rooms, 4 bathrooms, together with small home farm, 30 acres and 2 service cottages in hand. 290 acres woodland.

NORFOLK — **750 ACRES. £1,410 PER ANNUM** from compact investment of 3 farms, small holdings, mature woodlands and plantations. *Ample cottages and buildings.* **£31,500.**

WEST WALES — **1,328 ACRES** *in well-known dairying district.* **£1,071 PER ANNUM** from 13 farms, many licensed for T.T. milk production. Substantial maintenance and capital improvement claims. **PRICE £26,000.**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE — **796 ACRES.** Near Retford. **£1,324 PER ANNUM. FARM WITH GOOD HOUSE,** 5 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms. *11 cottages, all with baths; extensive buildings. Excellent* partridge shooting.

HANTS-BERKS BORDERS — **270 ACRES.** London only 45 miles. **£404 PER ANNUM GROSS.** 3 dairy and mixed farms (one licensed T.T.).

ROXBURGHSHIRE — **2,400 ACRES. ABOUT £2,000 PER ANNUM GROSS** from 8 farms, over 300 acres valuable woodlands, cottages, sawmill, etc.

GALLOWAY — **2,000 ACRES. GROSS ANNUAL INCOME OF £1,650** *from 4 let farms, feu duties and* cottages. 100 acres woodlands. Additional farm of 350 acres in hand.

ARGYLLSHIRE — **7,500 ACRES. TOTAL ASSESSED RENTAL OF £1,450** from 5 farms, licensed hotel, lands, cottages, feu duties, woodlands and fishings. 200-acre farm in hand, also compact residence and 16 cottages.

AYRSHIRE — **750 ACRES. £1,220 PER ANNUM** *(old rents) from 5 farms with good buildings. Substantial tax reliefs.*

GALLOWAY — **5,000 ACRES.** 2 let farms **PRODUCING £542 PER ANNUM.** 2,000-acre farm in hand, 200 acres woodland.

SURREY—KENT BORDERS

Between Edenbridge and Hartfield.

CHARMING MODERNISED 16th-CENTURY FARMHOUSE, with many period features and scheduled as of architectural and historic interest.

STUDY,
2 RECEPTION ROOMS,
6 BEDROOMS,
BATHROOM.
GARAGE.
Farmery with good stabling.
PADDOCKS.
ABOUT 12 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (J.33419)

By direction of Mrs. J. L. Cross and the Exors. of Major J. L. Cross, decd.

CATTHORPE MANOR, RUGBY

THE LUXURIOUS MODERN RESIDENCE IN THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE

beautifully sited in parklike surroundings.

Hall, boudoir, 3 reception rooms (with polished oak floors and fine mahogany doors), 11 principal bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 7 staff bedrooms.
Complete central heating.
Main electricity.
HUNTER STARLING.
GARAGES.
3 STAFF COTTAGES.
Attractive gardens with tennis courts.
About 11 acres with possession or with Home Farm of 272 acres let at £517 10s. per annum.

IN ALL 284 ACRES FREEHOLD

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

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VINCENT PENFOLD & WOOTTON

PERRYMOUNT BUILDINGS, HAYWARDS HEATH (Tel. 1744), SUSSEX

Preliminary Auction announcement. **SUSSEX**

IDEAL SUBJECT FOR CONVERSION. In this most attractive Downland village of

PYECOMBE

Brighton 5 miles, Hassocks station 1½ miles.

A Picturesque 15th-century Sussex Farmhouse, formerly one dwelling, but at present forming 2 self-contained cottages,

11 and 12 THE STREET

The present accommodation of each provides 2-3 bedrooms, 1-2 reception rooms, kitchen, etc. Main water connected and other services available.
LARGE GARDEN. **VACANT POSSESSION. FREEHOLD**

Situated on high ground and commanding extensive views over Pyecombe golf course and Downs.

4 and 5 CHURCH COTTAGES

A Pair of Attractive Cottages, with flint-faced elevations, easily adapted to one dwelling, each having: 3 bedrooms, reception room and kitchen. *All main services* available. **VACANT POSSESSION. FREEHOLD**

In the attractive old-world village of **WARNINGLID**

Haywards Heath 6 miles.

Offering considerable scope for conversion into superior residence.
THE OLD POST OFFICE, being part brick and stone, built with weather-tiled elevations, *Horsham stone-heeled roof.*
The property at present comprises: *2 cottages easily adaptable to provide 5 bedrooms,* 3-4 reception, etc. Main water connected. Electricity available. Main drainage *shortly.* LARGE GARDEN. **VACANT POSSESSION. FREEHOLD**

FOR SALE BY AUCTION, unless previously sold, early in the New Year

Details from the Auctioneers, Messrs. VINCENT PENFOLD & WOOTTON, as above.

MOLDRAM, CLARKE & EDGLEY

Chartered Surveyors,
155/6, High Street, Guildford, and at Woking.

GUILDFORD

On high ground on a sought-after residential estate within walking distance of the main line station and shopping centre.

A WELL-BUILT SMALL MODERN DETACHED HOUSE in excellent decorative order and comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, 2 good reception rooms, large kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c. Built-in garage. Well kept garden with greenhouse. All main services.
£4,000 FREEHOLD
Guildford Office (Tel. 67281-3).

WOKING

IN THE FAVOURED HOOK HEATH DISTRICT ON HIGH GROUND
IN DELIGHTFUL WOODED SETTING

A NEW DETACHED RESIDENCE, 2 fine reception rooms, cloakroom, kitchen, 3 bedrooms (would convert to 4), bathroom. *Detached brick and tile garage.* Garden. All main services.
£4,850 FREEHOLD *(offers considered).*
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SHALFORD, Near GUILDFORD

In this favoured village less than 2 miles from Guildford.

A CHARMING SMALL MODERN DETACHED RESIDENCE in good decorative order and compactly planned. Entrance hall, cloakroom, 2 good reception rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms (2 h. and c.), tiled bathroom, separate w.c. Gas-fired central heating. Garage. Small garden.
£5,250 FREEHOLD *or near offer.*
Guildford Office (Tel. 67281-3).

SACKVILLE HOUSE,
40, PICCADILLY, W.1
(Entrance in Sackville Street)

F. L. MERCER & CO.

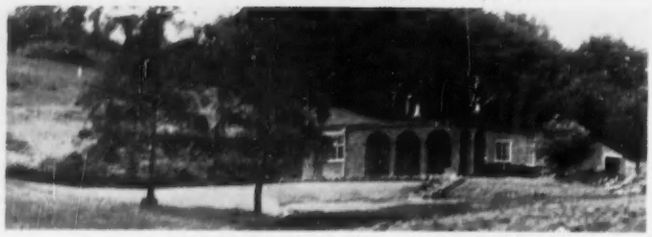
SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY HOUSES

Telephones: REGent 2481 2482 2295

LOVELY KENT HILLS AND WOODLANDS

Ideal for residential purposes or superior smallholding.

Superior position between Maidstone and Rochester, each 4 miles. Well sheltered by 1,000 acres of adjoining woodlands; immune from development.



Colonial style single-storey House with views of great beauty.

Most solidly built with facilities for extending. Drive approach. Lounge hall, 2 reception, 3 bed., bath. Central heating. Mains. Garage, splendid outbuildings suitable for pigs, poultry, etc.; infra red lighting and heating. Gardens, grass and woodland.

14 ACRES FREEHOLD RECOMMENDED AT £5,850

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., 40, Piccadilly, W.1. REGent 2481.

SOMERSET—BETWEEN BATH AND WELLS

On fringe of attractive village with frequent bus service. 3 miles from Mendip Golf Course.

CHARMING RESIDENCE OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

In excellent condition and easy to run.

3 RECEPTION ROOMS, GAMES ROOM 30 ft. by 20 ft., 6 BEDROOMS (4 with fitted basins), 2 BATHROOMS

Main electricity and water.

Good range of outbuildings including stable and garage with living quarters above. Fowl house for 300 birds on deep litter system. Secluded garden, paddock and orchard.

NEARLY 3 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,500

Owner now farming in Devonshire requires quick sale.

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MAPLE & CO.

ESTATE OFFICES 5, GRAFTON STREET, OLD BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1 Tel. HYDE PARK 4685

And at Tottenham Court Road, W.1.

RIVENHALL PARK, ESSEX

2 miles Witham, 40 miles London.

Luxury conversion with 16th-century characteristics and historical interest. Hall with cloakroom and shower. Period lounge, dining room, 3 bedrooms, dressing boudoir, bathroom, kitchen with Aga. Central heating. Double garage. **1½ ACRES.**

OFFERS FOR FREEHOLD INVITED

MAPLE & Co. LTD. Hyde Park 4685.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS

Close to station and shops, overlooking cherry orchard.

CHARMING MODERN GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

Lounge hall with cloakroom, dining room, beautiful drawing room (25 ft. by 21 ft.), 5 bedrooms (2 with basins), playroom, bathroom, good domestic offices, 2 garages. Lovely gardens of almost **1 ACRE.**

FREEHOLD FOR SALE by Private Treaty.

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NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

Convenient situation for town centre.

ATTRACTIVE BRICK-BUILT RESIDENCE

Entrance hall with cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, kitchen with Rayburn, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, boxroom. Mature garden. Main services.

FREEHOLD £3,950

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TRESIDDER & CO.

77, SOUTH AUDLEY STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Telegrams: "Cornishmen (Audley), London"

SUSSEX

8 miles Lewes, 2 miles local station. Amidst unspoilt country, extensive views.

DELIGHTFUL EARLY TUDOR HOUSE, HEAVILY TIMBERED THROUGHOUT, PERFECT PRESERVATION

3 reception, 2 bath., 6 bedrooms (3 h. & c.).

Central heating.

Main electricity and water.

GARAGE
OAST HOUSE
TITHE BARN AND BUILDINGS

Simply disposed gardens. Ponds.

30 ACRES. QUICK SALE DESIRED

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (19,072)

ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF COURSE

(Within few minutes walk). Lovely views over the Forest. 4½ miles East Grinstead.

CHARMING HOUSE OF CHARACTER

Designed by famous architect, in faultless order. Hall, 3-4 reception, 2 bath., 5 bedrooms (h. and c.), attic. Main electricity and water. Central heating. Nicely disposed grounds, tennis lawn, orchard, parkland and small wood. **12 ACRES**

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (20,916)

£3,800 FREEHOLD. BERKS-HANTS BORDER

10 miles Reading, 4 Aldermaston. Rural position, bus passes.

WELL-DESIGNED, LABOUR-SAVING WING OF COUNTRY HOUSE.

3 reception, cloakroom, modern kitchen, bathroom, 5 bedrooms, partial central heating, main water and electricity. Garage and outbuildings.

ANOTHER WING £5,250

With 2 rec., 4 bed., 2 bath. Double garage. Small garden and if wanted **1½ ACRES** orchard.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (30,712)

SURREY HILLS

700 ft. above sea level. Magnificent views over undulating country. Station 1 mile. In first-class order and very well fitted.

DIGNIFIED GEORGIAN HOUSE. 8 bedrooms (h. and c.), 4 bathrooms, 3 fine reception, up-to-date kitchen. *Oil-fired central heating. All main services. Parquet flooring. Agamatic.* DOUBLE GARAGE. Finely timbered grounds, stocked with choice flowering shrubs, fine cedars, spreading lawns, etc., requiring absolute minimum maintenance. In all about **4 ACRES.**

VERY MODERATE PRICE FOR QUICK SALE.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (15,312)

MESSRS. WHATLEY, HILL & COMPANY

ESTATE AGENTS
24, Ryder Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. Tel. WHItehall 4511-2.

EGHAM, SURREY

In a glorious position in unspoilt country on the hills above Runnymede.

WELL-DESIGNED AND SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT COUNTRY HOUSE until recently used as Convent School and suitable for institutional, scholastic or commercial purposes.

Chapel, 5 reception rooms, recreation room, conservatory, 6 classrooms, 25 bedrooms and dormitories, 4 bathrooms, cloakroom, etc.

Main water, gas and electricity. Central heating throughout.

Cottage, flat, extensive outbuildings.

Approximately 31 ACRES OF LAND FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Apply: Messrs. WHATLEY, HILL & COMPANY, Estate Agents, 24, Ryder Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. Tel. WHItehall 4511-2.

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24, POOLE HILL, BOURNEMOUTH (Tel. 7161).

And at Ringwood, Ferndown, Highcliffe, Brockenhurst and Barton-on-Sea.

IN THE HEART OF THE PURBECK COUNTRY

Delightfully placed in a pretty village within easy reach of Swanage and Wareham.

THIS CHARMING GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE

Modernised, comfortable, compact and easily run.

Containing: Lounge hall with original old open fireplace. Lounge and dining room, each 17 ft. by 12 ft., kitchen/breakfast room, cloaks, 5 bed. (h. and c.), 2 bathrooms, etc.

ALL ON 2 FLOORS ONLY

Main water and e.l. Septic tank drainage.

Fine old stone barn with room for several cars and other outbuildings.

THE HOUSE faces south with the principal rooms overlooking a sheltered WALLED GARDEN, in all about ½ **AN ACRE**

PRICE £5,350 FREEHOLD. Additional paddock if required.

Tel. (3 lines)
GROsvenor 3121

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET
LONDON, W.1

KENT BORDER

40 miles from London.

ENLARGED AND MODERNISED TUDOR FARM-HOUSE. 4 best bed and dressing rooms, bathroom, 2 good reception rooms and dining hall, 3 attic bedrooms. *Main services, central heating. Fitted basins.* Garage. Farm buildings. Stabling. Hard tennis court. Paddocks.

17 ACRES. PRICE £8,750 (COTTAGE AVAILABLE)

Recommended by WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, W.1. (GRO. 3121).

WEST SUSSEX VILLAGE

London 70 mins. First-class golf.

AN OLD GEORGIAN HOUSE

with addition and modern services. 6 bed., 2 bath, 3 reception and 2 staff rooms. Garage and outbuildings. Most pleasant garden. **2 ACRES.** Adjoining stream.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE

WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, W.1. (GRO. 3121).

DELIGHTFUL RIVERSIDE HOUSE

Near Cookham Bridge; long direct river frontage.

5 best bed and dressing rooms, 2 staff rooms, 3 excellent bathrooms (all in suites); 3 fine reception rooms, sun verandah. Parquet floors. *Central heating; main services.* Garage and grounds; new hard tennis court.

PRICE £9,750 WITH 3 ACRES.

WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, W.1. (GRO. 3121).

DANIEL SMITH, OAKLEY & GARRARD

32, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON, S.W.1. CASTLE CHAMBERS, ROCHESTER. 138, HIGH STREET, SEVENOAKS. 7, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE

By order of Her Highness the Maharani Saheba of Nawanagar.

MAYFIELD, SUSSEX

BEAUTIFUL SMALL ESTATE IN DELIGHTFUL SURROUNDINGS

Completely unspoilt country.

3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 boxrooms, usual offices, together with annexe containing 2 bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room with dining recess, and kitchen.

Main services. Modern drainage. Central heating.

2 cottages. Garages. Farm buildings.

Beautifully timbered gardens and grounds including valuable woodland and agricultural land.

IN ALL ABOUT 93 ACRES

FOR SALE, FREEHOLD, WITH POSSESSION MARCH 25, 1956. £18,000 (Subject to Contract).

Particulars and order to view from Agents, as above, London Offices or from the Joint Agents, MESSRS. HAMPTON & SONS, 6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1.

WHATLEY, HILL & CO.

ESTATE AGENTS, 24, RYDER STREET, ST. JAMES'S, LONDON, S.W.1. Telephone: WHItehall 4511-2.

By Order of the TRUSTEES OF THE NEWCASTLE ESTATE

FOREST FARM, NEAR WINDSOR

In excellent position immediately to the west of Windsor Great Park and Forest.

WELL DESIGNED AND SPACIOUS COUNTRY HOUSE

with 28 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, lounge hall, servants' hall and staff sitting rooms.

All main services.

EXTENSIVE GARAGES, STABLING AND FARM BUILDINGS

First-class cottage and 2 good flats over stabling. Well-timbered grounds and farmland totalling approximately

40 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

For particulars apply to Messrs. WHATLEY, HILL & Co., Estate Agents, 24, Ryder Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.

GASGOIGNE-PEES

SURBITON, LEATHERHEAD, DORKING, REIGATE, GUILDFORD, EPSOM

SELLING AT SPECULATOR'S PRICE

in order to realise promptly.

Admirably suited for converting to 4-bedroomed family residence and 3-roomed cottage by vertical division is imposing double-fronted residence on two floors only, occupying a convenient corner site in favoured residential road at Sutton. Attractive lounge hall with parquet flooring, cloakroom, 3 reception, breakfast room, 6 bedrooms, splendid tiled offices. Double garage. Secluded garden. Best offer over **£4,500 WILL SECURE FREEHOLD**

Apply: "Charter House," Surbiton (Elmbridge 4141.

OF TRUE QUALITY

Easy of management and with many delightful features.

A beautifully appointed L-shaped modern residence in choice residential close, on London's S.W. fringe adjacent to bowling club. Oak-panelled hall with radiator, tiled cloakroom, charming 21-ft. lounge with attractive inglenook brick fireplace, dining room, 3 bedrooms—one with hand basin, spacious boxroom which could make 4th bedroom, luxurious tiled bathroom with radiator, splendidly equipped kitchen/breakfast room. Built-in brick garage. Large charmingly displayed garden.

PRICE £4,950 FREEHOLD

Apply: "Charter House," Surbiton (Elmbridge 4141).

HAWKS HILL, LEATHERHEAD

250 ft. above sea level.

A SPLENDID ARCHITECT-DESIGNED 1938 RESIDENCE with automatic oil-fired CENTRAL HEATING. Superbly constructed and offering lounge and dining room opening to a 32-ft. room, study, staff room, fine well equipped kitchen quarters, 6 bedrooms (all with built-in cupboards), 2 bathrooms, cloakroom. Garaging for 5 cars. **2½ ACRES** secluded grounds with orchard, paddock and 3 loose boxes.

FREEHOLD

Apply: 4, Bridge Street, Leatherhead (Tel. 4133-4)

FOR TENNIS ENTHUSIAST

Excellent Freehold Building Plot.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY to build house of your choice in established garden of ¾ **ACRE** with first-class hard tennis court laid. Easy walk Ashtead Station and Woods.

PRICE £1,500

Apply: 4, Bridge Street, Leatherhead (Tel. 4133-4).

GUILDFORD

Exceptionally choice recently built bungalow.

Delightfully situate at the end of an exclusive close on high ground, just a mile from town centre. Artistic multi-coloured brick elevation, tastefully decorated and having central heating radiators and parquet floors. Lounge (17 ft. by 13 ft.), dining room, 4 bedrooms, beautifully equipped kitchen with Agamatic, luxury tiled bathroom. Large detached brick garage. ¼ **ACRE** garden.

£4,950 FREEHOLD

Apply: 90, High Street, Guildford (Tel. 67377).

GODALMING, SURREY

Lovely rural and unspoilt situation.

Nestled on the crest of a hill with glorious uninterrupted views to Hindhead and surrounding countryside and yet only about a mile of Godalming town centre and station. **The most attractive and extremely well-built post-war Residence,** comprises bright hall, charming L-shaped lounge, dining room, 3 excellent bedrooms, spacious superbly equipped kitchen, luxuriously appointed bathroom. Detached brick garage. Easily maintained ¼ **ACRE** garden.

PRICE £4,800 FREEHOLD

Apply: 90, High Street, Guildford (Tel. 67377).

Lewes
Ipswich
Builth Wells
Beaulieu

STRUTT & PARKER LOFTS & WARNER

HEAD OFFICE: 41, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1 (GRO. 3056)

Chelmsford
Oxford
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SUFFOLK-ESSEX BORDER

Easy reach Cambridge and Newmarket.
In a lovely position amidst beautiful country.

OLD FARMHOUSE, modernised and in excellent order. Hall, 2 sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, bathroom. *Own electricity (main available). Good water supply.* Useful range of farm buildings including a fine OLD BARN. **About 8½ ACRES with possession.**

PRICE £4,750

Or would be sold without buildings and land.

Apply: Sole Agents, Head Office, as above, or Coval Hall, Chelmsford (Tel. 4681-2).

SURREY—VIRGINIA WATER

London 35 minutes by excellent train service. Occupying a quiet and secluded position on the well-known Wentworth Estate.

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-FITTED MODERN HOUSE in first-class order throughout. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 staff rooms and 3rd bathroom. *Central heating throughout. All main services.* Garage for 2-3 cars. Landscape garden, well stocked and easily maintained. **IN ALL ABOUT 2 ACRES**

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Apply: Head Office, as above.

SOMERSET

MODERNISED GEORGIAN FARMHOUSE

In a beautiful setting of walled gardens. Hall, 3 reception rooms, 5 principal and 2 secondary bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. *Main water and electricity. Central heating and hot water by Janitor boiler.* **Every labour-saving and modern improvement.** In excellent order. Most useful outbuildings. Cottage. Lovely gardens (one gardener) with paddock. **IN ALL 10 ACRES**

PRICE £9,950. WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Apply: Head Office, as above.

NEAR BATH

On high ground.

A PARTICULARLY

CHARMING STONE-BUILT HOUSE

with

3 RECEPTION, 10 BEDROOMS,

2 BATHROOMS

All main services.

JACOBEAN COTTAGE

VERY ATTRACTIVE AND MATURE GARDEN

PRICE £9,250

Apply: 14, St. Giles, Oxford, or Head Office, as above.

ESSEX-HERTS BORDER

Bishop's Stortford 2 miles. London under 1 hour by train.

ATTRACTIVE PERIOD VILLAGE HOUSE. Well modernised and comprising entrance hall, 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. *Main electricity, water, drainage.* GARAGE and STABLE. Simply laid out garden and kitchen garden. **IN ALL ABOUT ½ ACRE**

PRICE £4,250

Apply: Head Office, or Coval Hall, Chelmsford (Tel: 4681).

SOMERSET-GLOS BORDER

GEORGIAN HOUSE

with considerable character and charm standing high with distant views.

3 RECEPTION,

6 PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS,

4 STAFF ROOMS,

2 BATHROOMS

Main electricity and water.

GARAGE. STABLING

Well laid out garden,

walled kitchen garden and pasture.

IN ALL 39 ACRES

VACANT POSSESSION

PRICE £9,000

Apply: 14, St. Giles, Oxford, or Head Office, as above.

BIDWELL & SONS

Chartered Surveyors

WITHIN 3 MILES OF

NEWMARKET

"CHIPPENHAM HILL"

MOULTON

A FIRST-CLASS

MODERN COUNTRY RESIDENCE

of convenient and liveable size

ERECTED IN 1938

BEAUTIFULLY FITTED THROUGHOUT

and equipped with every modern convenience.

2 reception rooms and study, 4 principal bedrooms (three of which have fitted basins), 2 bathrooms.

Excellent domestic quarters.
Servant's sitting room and 2 bedrooms with fitted basins.

MAIN WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Automatic oil-burning central heating and domestic hot water system with radiators throughout the entire house.

MODERN DRAINAGE

Standing on high ground with plantation shelter belts on three sides.

Attractively laid out gardens, kitchen garden and orchard.

7-ACRE FENCED PADDOCK

IDEALLY SUITED TO PERSONS WITH RACING AND BLOODSTOCK INTERESTS

and at present the home of Brigadier and Mrs. W. P. Wyatt, who have acquired a larger house in the vicinity, with the result that "Chippenham Hill" has become available

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY WITH VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

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Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents, HEAD OFFICE: 2, KING'S PARADE, CAMBRIDGE, and at Ely, Ipswich and London.

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SOUTHAMPTON

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BRIGHTON
WORTHING

NEW FOREST BORDERS

Adjoining Common Land midway between Southampton and Salisbury.

PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR HORSE OR DOG BREEDING

Modern Country Residence

4 BEDROOMS,
DRESSING ROOM,
2 BATHROOMS,
2 RECEPTION ROOMS,
CLOAKROOM,
DOMESTIC OFFICES.

Central heating.
Main services.

GARAGE AND STABLING.

2-room bungalow. Garden.

Pasture and woodland of about **16 ACRES**

FOX & SONS, 32, London Road, Southampton. Tel. 25155 (4 lines).

MID-SUSSEX

In completely rural surroundings with fine views to the South Downs, yet only a few minutes' walk from a main line station. Haywards Heath 5 miles, Lewes 7 miles, Brighton 14 miles.

An Excellent GRASS FARM WITH AN ATTRACTIVE PERIOD FARMHOUSE

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, cloakroom, maid's room, kitchen. *Main electricity and water.* Garage for 2 cars. Garden room. Greenhouse. Modern cottage. Good modern farm buildings, including large modern barn, covered stockyard, standings for 14 cows, loose boxes, dutch barn, etc. **The Land,** which is mainly grass is in convenient enclosures and extends to about **60 ACRES**

VACANT POSSESSION OF WHOLE. PRICE £13,000 FREEHOLD

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CLOSE TO LYNDHURST

Delightfully situated in the centre of a charming New Forest village.

17th-CENTURY CHARACTER RESIDENCE

With wealth of oak and in excellent order.

3 BEDROOMS,
BATHROOM,
2 RECEPTION ROOMS (one with inglenook fireplace),
BREAKFAST ROOM,
KITCHEN,
CLOAKROOM.

All main services.

DOUBLE GARAGE.
STORE.

Most attractive garden of about **¾ ACRE**

FOX & SONS, 32, London Road, Southampton. Tel. 25155 (4 lines).

OVERLOOKING THE OPEN FOREST

OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THOSE SEEKING A SMALL WELL PLANNED PROPERTY FOR RETIREMENT

Close to Brockenhurst and main line railway station.

Well-appointed Bungalow Residence

2-3 BEDROOMS,
WELL-APPOINTED BATHROOM,
LOUNGE HALL,
1-2 RECEPTION ROOMS,
KITCHEN WITH RAYBURN.
GARAGE.

All main services.

Well laid out garden.

PRICE £3,600 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 32, London Road, Southampton. Tel. 25155 (4 lines).

SUSSEX

In a delightful position on high ground within 4 miles of Uckfield. Buxted Station 2 miles. Easy reach Tunbridge Wells.

An Exceptionally ATTRACTIVE 15th-CENTURY RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

Carefully modernised and having many interesting features.

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, well-equipped kitchen. *Main electricity and water. Septic tank drainage. Central heating.* Well maintained gardens. Garage and other buildings. **Excellent model T.T. farmery** with modern buildings, including standings for 8 cows.

COTTAGE. Large orchard, and meadowland, in all about **16 ACRES**

Vacant Possession of the Whole. PRICE £12,500 FREEHOLD

Apply: FOX & SONS, 117 and 118, Western Road, Brighton. Tel. Hove 39201.

NEAR SALISBURY, WILTS

CHARMING OLD-WORLD BRICK, HALF-TIMBERED AND THATCHED COTTAGE RESIDENCE

Tastefully modernised but still retaining its character.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, large sitting room (23 ft. 6 ins. by 11 ft. 7 ins.) kitchen.

Main water and electricity. Aga cooker. Central heating.

Built-in cupboards

Accommodation for 2 garages. Lovely garden of about ¼ **ACRE**

PRICE £4,200 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

Enjoying glorious and uninterrupted views of the surrounding countryside.

BETWEEN HORSHAM AND WORTHING

High Ground. Well away from main road. 5 miles Pulborough Station. 10 miles Worthing.

A most attractive detached modern freehold residence

Built for present owner in 1938. At present run as a fruit and chicken farm.

5 bedrooms, half-tiled bathroom, 3 reception rooms, spacious entrance hall, kitchen and scullery.

Main electricity and power. Company's water.

GARAGE FOR 2 CARS. Useful range of outbuildings.

Fertile land planted with over 1,000 fruit trees extending to about **6 ACRES**

PRICE £7,950 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 41, Chapel Road, Worthing. Tel. 6120.

OVERLOOKING AND

ACTUALLY ADJOINING THE NEW FOREST

In one of the best positions in the vicinity, enjoying complete seclusion and Forest Rights.

A most charming old-world Cottage Residence excellently modernised and in good condition throughout.

4 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, entrance hall, cloakroom kitchen.

GARAGE.
STABLING.

Good outbuildings.

Main electricity and water. Central heating.

Delightful garden of about ¾ **ACRE**

PRICE £8,250 FREEHOLD

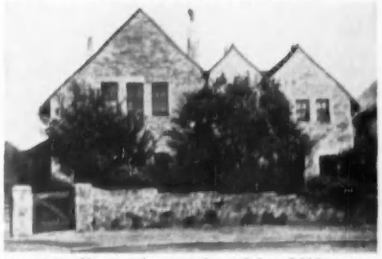
FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

SWANAGE, DORSET

In delightful position with extensive views to the sea.

COMFORTABLE WELL BUILT FAMILY RESIDENCE

Situated in quiet residential cul-de-sac close to the town.



7 bedrooms, bathroom-dressing room, 3 reception rooms, hall, cloakroom, kitchen.

Main services. Small garden leading to cliff edge.

PRICE £4,500 FREEHOLD

An additional plot with garage opposite can be purchased for £600 extra, if desired.

FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

HAMPSHIRE

2½ miles from a market town, 15 miles Bournemouth. In a good residential district 200 feet above sea level.

PICTURESQUE MODERN RESIDENCE

In excellent condition throughout.

3 bedrooms, half-tiled bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen.

GARAGE 2 CARS.

Main electricity, water and gas.

Attractively laid out garden and orchard of about **1 ACRE**

PRICE £6,200 FREEHOLD

FOX & SONS, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 6300.

ESHER
WALTON-ON-THAMES
WEYBRIDGE
CHOBHAM

MANN & CO. AND EWBANK & CO.

WEST SURREY

COBHAM
GUILDFORD
WOKING
WEST BYFLEET

EATON PARK, COBHAM

High healthy position.

MOST ATTRACTIVE MODERN DETACHED RESIDENCE, lovely views, easy reach station (Waterloo 32 mins.), shops. Owner's private suite, bedroom, bathroom, dressing room, 4 other bedrooms, bathroom, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, sun room, modern kitchen with Aga. Garage. Beautiful garden. **1 ACRE**

£7,500 FREEHOLD

Cobham Office: EWBANK & Co., 19, High Street. Tel. 47.

OXSHOTT, SURREY

Secluded in 1 acre garden, about 10 mins. station.

WELL MAINTAINED MODERN RESIDENCE

4 bedrooms (fitted wardrobes, dressing tables), bathroom, separate w.c., lounge hall, cloakroom, through 21-ft. lounge with inglenook, dining room, breakfast room (new Agamatic boiler), kitchenette (stainless steel sink), maid's sitting room. Detached large garage. Tennis lawn. Crown Lease about 70 years unexpired. **£6,500**

Esher Office: EWBANK & Co., 70, High Street. Tel. 3537-8.

WEST BYFLEET, SURREY

CHARMING DETACHED HOUSE

5 principal bedrooms, 2 secondary bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 good reception rooms, lounge hall with polished oak floor, cloakroom. Double garage. All main services.

Very well maintained garden about 2/3 **ACRE**

£6,750 FREEHOLD

West Byfleet Office: Station Approach. Tel. 3288-9

WEYBRIDGE

COMPACTLY PLANNED RESIDENCE

Spacious rooms in perfect order. Full south aspect. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen. Central heating throughout. Garage for 2. Attractive garden **1 ACRE**

£5,750 FREEHOLD

Weybridge Office: EWBANK & Co., 7, Baker Street. Tel. 61-2.

WEYBRIDGE

COMPACT POST-WAR DETACHED RESIDENCE

First-class residential district on high ground.

5 BEDROOMS (4 h. and c.), 2 BATHROOMS, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, LOUNGE HALL, KITCHEN WITH AGA.

GARAGE FOR 3.

MATURED GROUNDS 2/3 **ACRE**

COMPLETE CENTRAL HEATING.

All main services.

£7,250 FREEHOLD

Weybridge Office: EWBANK & Co., 7, Baker Street. Tel. 61-2.

SPACIOUS HOUSE

IN 3 1/3 ACRES GARDEN

Adjoining golf course, suitable occupation or development. 5 principal bedrooms, 3 secondary bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, good domestic offices all main services. Entrance lodge. Double garage.

Frontage about 250 ft. **£8,500 FREEHOLD**

Joint Sole Agents: MANN & Co., 3, High Street, Woking (Tel. 3800-3), and MRS. N. C. TUFNELL, Sunninghill, Berks (Tel. Ascot 818).

Established 1870

WM. WOOD, SON & GARDNER

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX and HORLEY, SURREY

Tel. Crawley 1 (three lines) and Horley 3

SUSSEX WITH SUPERB VIEW

Overlooking Balcombe Forest to the South Downs.

FAMILY RESIDENCE

Situated in complete rural surroundings and containing

6 bedrooms, boxroom, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, being major part of a manor house. Detached double garage built in keeping.

Attractive walled rose garden, orchard and small paddock, in all about **2 1/4 ACRES**

Main electric light and power. Modern drainage. Main water. Central heating.

PRICE £7,500 FREEHOLD

SUSSEX-SURREY BORDER

4 miles main electric line station to London.

MODERNISED AND ARTISTICALLY DECORATED

Fumed pine doors, the accommodation on 2 floors affords 5 double bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms (which includes personal suite), 3 reception rooms, kitchen with 4-oven Aga and Agamatic. Garage 2 cars and extremely delightful old-world garden economically laid out with lawns, shrubs and variety of fruit trees and kitchen garden, extending to

ABOUT 2 ACRES

All main services.

PRICE £7,500 FREEHOLD

Very strongly recommended, an ideal property for anyone wishing to travel daily to the City.

BRADSTREET & CO. OF N.W. LONDON

"CHESTNUT MOUNT"

ELSTREE, HERTFORDSHIRE

12 MILES LONDON, 4 MILES WATFORD

With excellent views over open countryside. Public transport passing end of carriage drive, with multiple shopping centre and main line (Midland Region) station within 20 minutes' walk.

A MODERN DETACHED RESIDENCE IN APPROX. 1 ACRE

CENTRAL HEATING. ALL MAIN SERVICES.

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 w.c.s, lounge hall, 2 excellent reception rooms (lounge approx. 23 ft. by 15 ft.), morning room, modern kitchen. 2 garages.

FREEHOLD

TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION JANUARY 30, 1956

(or would be sold previously by private treaty).

Particulars of Auctioneers (Country Department), 5/7, The Broadway, Mill Hill, N.W.7. Mil. 1193 (3 lines) or from any of Company's other branches.

SHELDON BOSLEY, F.A.I.

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, WARWICKSHIRE. Tel. 113.

SURELY ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE HOMES IN

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

Charming situation. Perfectly appointed. Hunting with the Heythrop and Warwickshire.

THE MILL HOUSE, STOURTON

well built of Cotswold stone (date stone 1765) in some of the loveliest country in Warwickshire.

OAK-PANELLED ENTRANCE HALL, DINING ROOM AND STUDY, MAIN LOUNGE AND SUN LOUNGE, 7 BEDROOMS AND 4 BATHROOMS ARRANGED IN COMPACT SUITES.

Aga kitchen, usual domestic offices, servants' quarters and flat.

GARAGE FOR 3 CARS. STABLING AND COWPENS.

Alpine garden. Bathing pool. Trout stream and waterfalls intersecting the gardens and paddocks, the whole extending to approximately

NINETEEN ACRES

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY WITH VACANT POSSESSION OF THE WHOLE

Particulars and plans from the Sole Agent: SHELDON BOSLEY, F.A.I., Chartered Auctioneer and Estate Agent, Shipston-on-Stour (Tel. 113), Warwickshire.

ESTATE OFFICES

KENsington 1490
Telegrams:
"Estate, Harrods, London"

HARRODS

32, 34 and 36, HANS CRESCENT, LONDON, S.W.1

Southampton, West Byfleet
Haslemere and Berkhamsted

NEW FOREST

MOST ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE OF GREAT CHARM AND CHARACTER

With full Forest Rights. Easy reach of Beaulieu and Lymington.

4 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen with "Agamatic" boiler and "Leisure" sink unit, bathroom, separate w.c., 2 garages, greenhouse, bungalow cottage with 1 bedroom, living room, kitchenette and bathroom.

Main electricity and water.

Modern drainage.

Delightful grounds with formal garden, orchard, kitchen garden and three paddocks, in all about

4½ ACRES.

PRICE £6,900 FREEHOLD

40, The Avenue, Southampton (*Telephone:* 22171-2), and 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn.* 806.)

UNSPOILT HIGH ESSEX

Chelmsford and Colchester ½ hour London. Gravel and sand sub-soil.

QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE

Entrance and inner halls, 3 very fine reception rooms, a principal suite of bed., dressing room and bathroom, first-rate nursery suite; in all 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (basins h. and c. in all bedrooms), good domestic offices. *Co.'s electric light and power, excellent water and drainage.* 2 garages, useful outbuildings. First-rate cottage.

Beautiful grounds with box and yew hedges, rose garden, herbaceous borders, lawns, kitchen garden, Paddock, **in all just over 8 ACRES, bounded by a river affording fishing, etc.**

ONLY £8,950 FREEHOLD

Full particulars from the Sole Agents, HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn.* 806.)

19 MILES NORTH OF TOWN IN GREEN BELT

In a most attractive situation, 3 minutes' walk Green Line buses, easy reach station.

THE CHARMING PERIOD RESIDENCE

Has been tastefully modernised.

Hall, 2-3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good cottage and attractive small lodge. GARAGES, etc. Delightful gardens with hard tennis court.

Some 5 acres productive flower and market garden including heated greenhouses and good buildings.

IN ALL ABOUT 9 ACRES. FREEHOLD

VACANT POSSESSION

Sole Agents: HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn* 809.)

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

Choice situation. Good train service. First-rate order.

DELIGHTFUL FAMILY RESIDENCE, OR IDEAL FOR 2 FAMILIES

Large hall, cloakroom (h. and c.), 4 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms (h. and c.), 2 bathrooms; separate flat, 3 rooms, bath., etc.

GARAGE FOR 2

GOOD OUTBUILDINGS

Pleasure grounds, good lawns, ornamental trees, kitchen garden, etc., in all

1 ACRE

All Co.'s mains.

Central heating throughout.

OFFERED AT A REASONABLE FIGURE

Strongly recommended by HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn.* 806.)

A SMALL

CHARACTER HOUSE OF INTRIGUING CHARM

Easy reach of Bedford and Northampton.

A CHARMING RESTORATION FARMHOUSE

Modernised throughout with Co.'s water, electric light and gas.

3 good reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and good domestic offices.

LARGE WORKSHOP

Lovely 17th-century barn, numerous outbuildings.

GARAGE FOR 3 CARS

Attractive and well-stocked garden with paddock, orchard, etc., in all

ABOUT 4 ACRES

OFFERED AT A VERY REASONABLE FIGURE

HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn.* 806.)

GENTLEMAN'S FIRST-RATE PLEASURE FARM

1 hour West of London. Easy reach Reading and High Wycombe. Magnificent views over Thames valley.

With attractive farmhouse containing 2 reception rooms, loggia, 4-5 bedrooms, bathroom, etc. *Co's electric light and water. Partial central heating.*

GOOD GARAGE

Bungalow Cottage, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, etc.

First-rate farmery, low house with tubular steel fittings, dairy, fine dutch barn, and other fine farm-buildings.

Excellent farm land. All in good heart, about 40 acres pasture, good arable, etc.

IN ALL ABOUT 70 ACRES. ONLY £13,500 FREEHOLD

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A MINIATURE SHOW PLACE

FAVOURITE ESHER DISTRICT

Worthy of the highest recommendation, replete with every conceivable convenience, representing the acme of comfort, with a minimum of upkeep.

Entrance hall, 2 fine reception rooms, sun lounge, 4 bedrooms, excellent bathroom, unusually fine domestic offices. Tiled loggia.

2 SUMMER HOUSES
2 GARAGES

All companies' mains.

Oak window frames, lattice windows. Burma teak flooring. Charming grounds with lawns, waterfall with fish pond, mature trees, etc., in all

ABOUT 1 ACRE.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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A CHARMING CHALET-STYLE RESIDENCE

With views of the Downs, and easy reach Woodcote Park (R.A. Club).

3 RECEPTION ROOMS
4 BEDROOMS
2 BATHROOMS

All main services.

Part central heating.

2 GARAGES

The whole well appointed and in excellent order.

Delightful fully-stocked garden.

ABOUT ¾ ACRE

FREEHOLD. POSSESSION

HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn.* 809.)

HANTS AND SURREY BORDERS

Pick position amidst healthy surroundings; south aspect. About 2 miles from a market town and 38 miles by road from London.

A MODERN RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

with 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom.

Main services.

Central heating.

GARAGE FOR 2 CARS

Well laid out pleasure gardens with kitchen garden, shrubberies, small orchard, area about

1½ ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD, ONLY £5,450

HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490 (*Extn.* 807), *and Haslemere* 953.)

40 MINUTES SOUTH OF TOWN

Easy reach of the Sussex coast.

CHARMING 15th-CENTURY FARMHOUSE FULL OF OAK BEAMS

Lounge hall, 2 good reception rooms, downstair cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, good offices.

GARAGE AND OTHER USEFUL OUTBUILDINGS

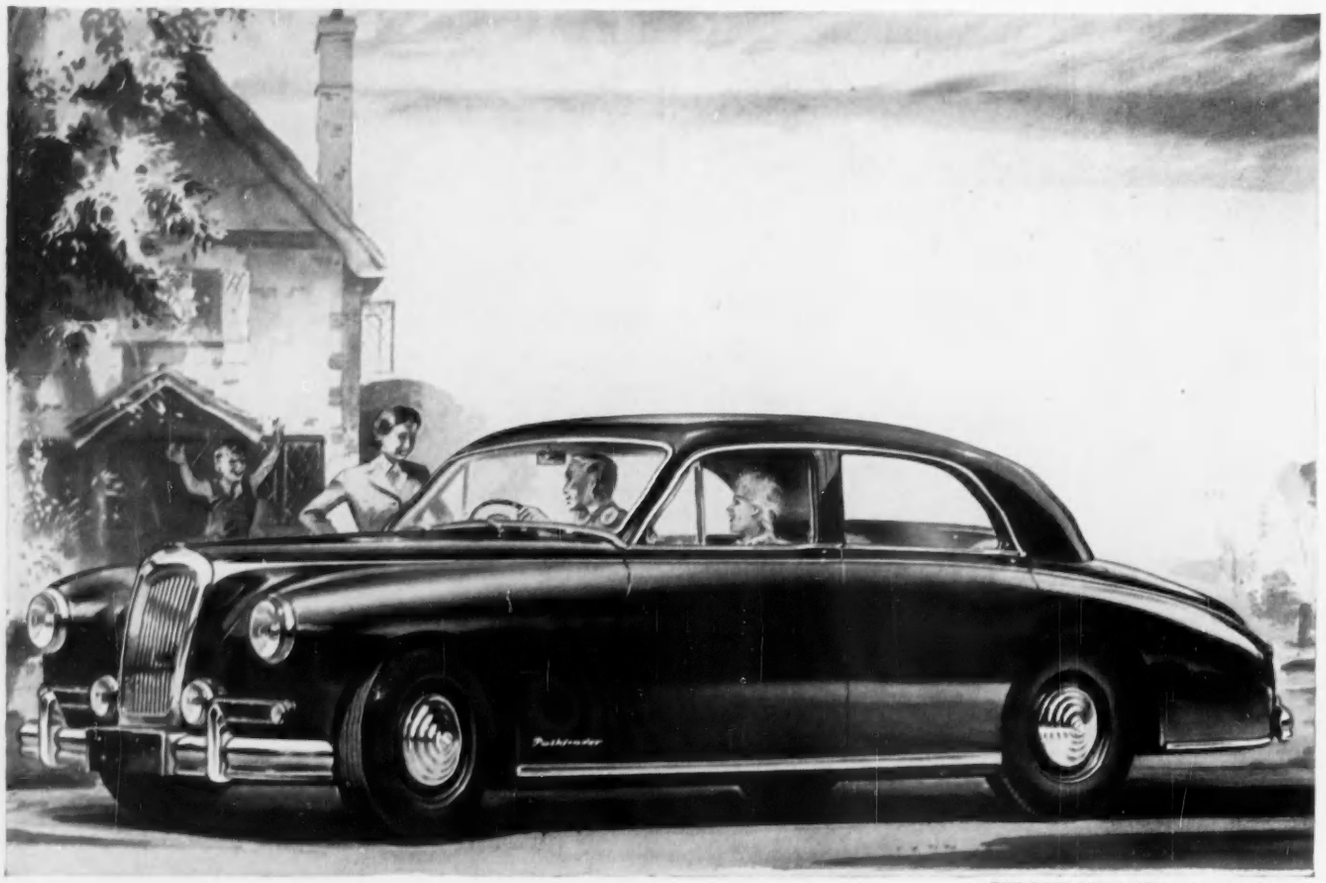
Co.'s water. Electric light and power.

Modern drainage.

Well established grounds with ornamental trees and shrubs—in all **1 ACRE**

Only £4,750. Additional 8 acres available if desired.

HARRODS LTD., 32, 34 and 36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (*Telephone: KENsington* 1490. *Extn.* 806.)



'THE BEST RILEY YET' vide 'The MOTOR'

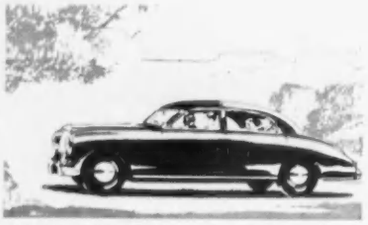
The day you drive your RILEY PATHFINDER *home*

Together with his home, nothing is more likely to reflect a man's prestige than the car he prefers to own. It is not surprising therefore that men of discernment to-day aspire to the ownership of the new Riley PATHFINDER. In this car you will discover a rare combination of the luxurious comfort you deserve with the high-speed performance you demand.

You will be impressed by the sweeping grace of its brilliant new styling. At once you will see why it is the car on which so many men have now set their hearts.

But the worth of the PATHFINDER goes deeper—every ounce of skilled Riley engineering experience has been concentrated into this fine car. That is why you can be sure that the PATHFINDER will give you years of thoroughly dependable, trouble-free motoring.

DRIVE THE RILEY PATHFINDER . . . a wonderful experience! In the busiest traffic—so serene!



ON THE OPEN ROAD . . . at more than a mile and a half a minute you are still easy and relaxed.

REMEMBER—

Quality and dependability are guaranteed by the B.M.C. Used-Car Warranty and you are certain of a good deal when you sell.

The Riley Pathfinder is fitted with Safety Glass all round.

Riley

FOR MAGNIFICENT MOTORING

RILEY MOTORS LIMITED, *Safety Division,* **COWLEY, OXFORD**

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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CXVIII No. 3075 DECEMBER 22, 1955

Dorothy Wilding

MISS DAWN PALETHORPE

Miss Dawn Palethorpe, who at the age of 19 is one of the outstanding horsewomen in the country, is the younger daughter of Captain and Mrs. J. Palethorpe, of Blakedown, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

COUNTRY LIFE

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THE BRITISH WAY

IT is twenty-one years since, overcoming the antipathy to self-advertisement which Britons like to regard as a national virtue but which is rather a relic of their Victorian "superiority complex," the British Council was brought into being in response to accumulated Foreign Office pressure and with a grant of £6,000.

"The idea that it might be useful, indeed necessary, to consider some form of educational and cultural activities overseas first germinated in the imaginative and precise mind of Lord Curzon," Sir Harold Nicolson points out in this year's report, as long ago as 1920. But ten years later Sir Percy Loraine wrote from Egypt: "If we continue in our present path of inaction, quite clearly we are laying up for ourselves a future store of antipathies and hostilities, of enemy partisanships and trade losses, which will impose burdens far heavier than the slight ones we should assume by financially supporting a concerted educational and cultural movement attracting to our orbit the youth and intelligentsia of the new East which is shaping under our eyes." Soon after that the British Council for Relations with Other Countries, to give it its original name, was formed with the object, as the Prince of Wales put it in a forceful address, of explaining to foreigners "what Britain means to the British."

This year, with a gross expenditure of over three million pounds (part of which is directly recovered), operating in sixty-five countries and responsible for nearly four thousand overseas students here, the Council takes stock of its remarkable development. The empirical nature of its expansion and the characteristically wide range of its teaching are the strongest assurances that the Council is fulfilling its mission in the way that its clients desire and, consequently, that is to this country's interest in the long view, namely as a "cultural, unpolitical and comparatively disinterested institution." This year's report (the first for some time to show a slight increase instead of a drop in financial allocation) can record new branches opened in British Honduras, British Guiana and Persia (re-opened); and that science, medicine, agriculture and engineering account for relatively the most numerous lecture tours and advisory visits overseas. Nevertheless, the pressing recent offers of technological facilities made by Russia to certain nations and the views held in some quarters of our own shortage in that respect may make us wonder whether a stepping up of the Council's technological departments may not be an urgent necessity. Even so, however, its first function must continue to be the teaching of English, and with it, one hopes, the imparting of some taste for that hardly definable ethos, the British way of life.

"IF ANCIENT FABRICS NOD"

THE attractive and interesting exhibition of techniques developed by the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Works in the preservation of ancient buildings, which has been at the R.I.B.A. for all too short a time, should be put on permanent view at the Science Museum. Besides showing the public what miracles can be performed, it would help to counter the alarming shortage of entrants to this kind of work which undoubtedly, with the combinations it requires of historical knowledge, modern technique, handcraft and artistry, would appeal to many men who are stultified by the mechanisation of contemporary building and architecture. How fascinating it must have been, for instance, to "corset" the Cow Tower at Norwich, "knit" the fractures with reinforced concrete stitches, then cast a concrete ring beam against the plinth tensioned simultaneously by hydraulic "jacks"; or to recover the original colouring and restore the painted decoration of Lord Burlington's "bijou" at Chiswick, complete rehabilitation of which is still awaited. Not the least achievement of the exhibition has been to discover the quotation from Dryden, the opening words of which are at the head of this paragraph, commending conservative restoration, and going on:

To change foundations, cast the frame anew,
Is work for rebels who base ends pursue.

That used to be true enough, but it is precisely what the exhibition shows has been done with the highest motives and success to several ancient buildings that, having nodded tranquilly for some centuries, would shortly have mouldered away, but for these rebels' wit.

OLD HERON

SOLEMN and solitary, gaunt and grey,
He broods, along the channels of the marsh;
Or, where small streams their singing journeys make,
He slowly wades; or, by some shadowy lake,
In summer's heat and in the winter's harsh
And hungry time, his hunchback stance he'll take,
Motionless, meditative, day by day.

Ever, his cold eyes search: intently strain
To mark each movement in his watery world;
Till, lightning-swift and sudden, comes a snatch,
A sure-aimed stab of his long beak, to catch
His diet's small assortment—ripple-swirled,
Darting, or gliding. With the same despatch
All's caught, engulfed. The pale eyes watch again.

But, when, each gradual evening, drains the light,
(As, from the marsh, the wan flood-water drains)
His day-long contemplation he suspends;
Towards his tree-top sanctuary he bends
His purposed thought; and, from his lone domains,
On stiff, deliberate pinions he ascends,
And, through the dusk, goes homeward for the night.

M.I.J.

RURAL TRANSPORT

THE House of Commons debate on Mr. Baldwin's Bill on rural transport did not produce much practical result. The terms were limited to the action that might be taken to prevent the closing of branch railway lines, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport was able to show that it would not be reasonable to require the Transport Commission to keep wholly unremunerative branch lines in operation. Nor does Mr. Hugh Molson think much of the possibilities of maintaining an economical service by using diesel trains on small branch lines. More important to those people living in the outlying districts is the problem of rural bus services. Mr. Molson claimed that the licensing system is proving successful in persuading operators to run unremunerative services in return for licences to run the more profitable ones. The larger concerns are given a monopoly of the cream of traffic on main routes if they undertake to run some unremunerative services. This kind of pressure is not effective everywhere, and there are some isolated districts where the problem can be solved only by a farmer, or two or three neighbouring farmers, arranging to run an estate wagon or some such vehicle into the local town once or twice a week to convey the farm-workers' wives on their shopping visits. This is already being done in some places, and the women are quite happy to make a contribution towards the cost of the service.

BEAR IN THE ALPS?

REPORTS that members of the British Olympic ski team training 10,000 feet up on the desolate Iseran Pass near Val d'Isère, in the French Alps, have found tracks resembling those of the "Abominable Snowman" of the Himalaya raise an interesting possibility. The tracks are said to be the size of small dinner plates, with clearly distinguishable pads and claws. This suggests that they belong to a bear. But though the European brown bear survives on both the French and the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, it is generally thought to be extinct in the Alps. Monsieur M. A. J. Couturier, in his book *L'Ours Brun*, stated that it was last seen alive there in 1937, and doubted whether any existed in 1954, when the book was published. But the bear of 1937 was seen in the Isère district. Can it have survived the intervening years and be responsible for the tracks seen by the British skiers? It is to be hoped that someone will shortly catch sight of the author of the tracks and confirm or refute this possibility.

YOUNG GOLFING HEROINES

SELDOM has there been a greater triumph for youth in games than that achieved by our team of lady golfers who have just returned from Australasia. When the tour was originally proposed the better known British players were, for one reason or another, unable to go. So the L.G.U., no doubt with some doubts, sent an extremely youthful team which had not before had any experience of international fire. Never was faith better justified; those young heroines have now come home bringing their sheaves with them in the form of two National and one State Championship, those of Australia, New Zealand and Victoria. All three of these were won by one young lady, Miss V. Anstey, of whom it may be respectfully said that only very close students of ladies outside her own county of Warwickshire had ever heard of her before. Hers was the outstanding achievement, but others of the team, noticeably Miss Atkinson and Miss Somerville, did excellent things. Incidentally, here is a little bit of friendly revenge. Two years ago a team of Australian men enjoyed a wonderfully successful tour here; they won the Commonwealth tournament at St. Andrews, and Douglas Bakli won our Amateur Championship. Moreover, a great Australian professional, Peter Thomson, has won our Open Championship for the last two years in succession. Miss Anstey has returned some of these compliments in the most practical possible manner.

NAME THIS STREET

TO find a good name for a new street is obviously difficult, as anyone may discover by studying the many inappropriate ones to be met with on a drive through any suburb. So it is easy to sympathise with both parties in a little argument between the owners of a private housing estate at Biggleswade and the Urban District Council. The Council wanted to call a road Albert-crescent after Dr. Albert Schweizer, and the owners appealed against the name. No one could and would object to the name as that of a very great man, but the owners said that it was too Victorian, and no doubt it would be generally held to celebrate the Prince Consort, who is now, perhaps, a little out of date. Whether "crescent" was also deemed too Victorian, even as "grove" might be at this time of day, is not quite clear; but there was another more practical objection. Even as Mr. Squeers said of Dotheboys Hall, "The fact is it ain't a hall," so the owners said it was not a crescent in shape. Whether that is or is not fatal is a matter of taste—for example, cockroaches are neither cocks nor roaches. However, the question has been peacefully resolved by an amendment to Boddington-gardens, perfectly harmless and not very exciting.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By **IAN NIALL**

NOT long ago a Canadian friend who was over for a brief visit talked to me about the heating of houses in Britain. He had come from the province of Manitoba and found our weather, as most Canadians do, much too damp and cold for his liking, having been used to a crisp cold that does not get into the bones. The temperature of the average Canadian home in his part of the world, he told me, is maintained at about 68 to 70 degrees, which in our damp climate, with its higher outdoor temperature, might not be very healthy. As it is, one hears continually of colds at the village school immediately the heating goes on.

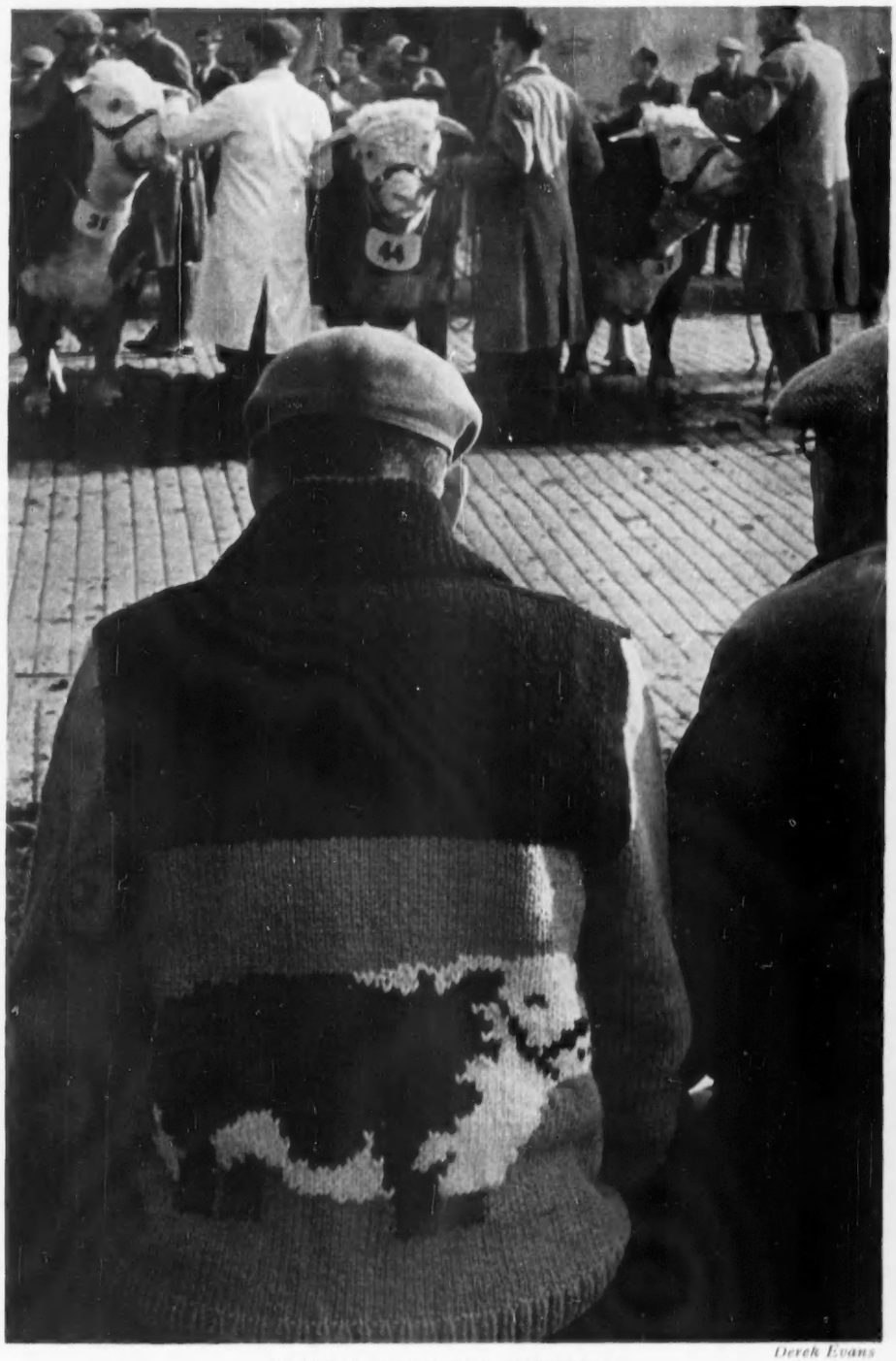
Heating is a difficult problem when fuel is hard to get, and the majority of ordinary heating outfits seem to be designed to consume solid fuel. This, when hospitals, schools and institutions must have priority, means that people requiring it for domestic purposes, either heating or cooking, are immediately in competition for it. One solution seems to be to have one's old coke-burning boiler converted for oil. For the thing to be done properly it should be a conversion with automatic stoking. I am told that many industrial concerns have already done this. But if everyone using solid fuel changed to oil we might be no better off, for fantastic amounts would surely be needed. Yet anyone who has found it hard to keep a heating plant stoked may be forgiven for thinking of conversion.

* * *

MOST of the heat in the average room where the ordinary sort of coal fire is used must go up the chimney. To keep a coal fire going there must be draught. I once gave a lot of thought and time to this compromise between comfort and draught. We had never been short of draught, of course. Our draughts were of a high order. Our fires roared like a blast furnace and the slow-burning fires which I installed did not burn as slowly as I had hoped. In fact, the amount of coal they consumed in a given time appeared to be exactly the same as was taken by the old raging fire that went with the house before the change. I had to get rid of the draughts, and achieved this by fitting door seals. The old familiar roar stopped abruptly. We could hear people talking away down the road.

Yet it seemed quite wrong. There had to be a snag somewhere, and there was. The fires smoked. I cursed the architect who provided the draughts in the first place. I cursed the makers of slow-burning stoves and fires for not making their appliances capable of consuming their own smoke, and I had hard things to say about door seals that really were efficient. For one or two evenings I pretended that I liked to sit in a smoky atmosphere, but the truth was I could have kippered herrings in it or smoked salmon without much effort. I invariably dropped off to sleep because the oxygen had been extracted from the air. A layer of soot might be all very well on the garden, but no one thought much of it on the furniture and in the end I had to go back and tamper with the seals. This speeded up the slow-burning fires and the draught made me think again of having foot-muffs made. I was consoled to think that a friend had to do the same thing even when his fires were supplied with draught by a special duct. His draught seals were so complete that the windows bulged when he closed the door. He jokingly remarked that he thought there was some danger of those left in the room getting what is known as the bends when the door was closed too vigorously. This did not happen, of course, but it intrigued me.

We still have an adequate draught. Our flues make it necessary. When a visitor looks over his shoulder as though expecting to find someone with a knife at his back I know the look and I make my stock remark about draughts, fire and the supply of oxygen. I mumble about turning round and getting toasted on the other side and that, with the average, run-of-the-mill visitor, seems to do the trick, although it is amazing the number who put out suggestions about central heating.



Derek Evans

FASHION NOTE FOR FARMERS

* * *

A MAN I met the other day was talking on a subject that has interested me for a long time—the real effect of back garden produce on the business of the greengrocer, in this case, a door-to-door business. "Altogether," said the man, "it means a bit of a slack spell while the back garden has its little surplus of potatoes, cabbages, carrots or beans to be picked. It doesn't last. The small garden can't supply the kitchen for very long. If all the ground used for back gardens could be lumped together and cultivated properly it might be different." This is something that hardly needs to be said. The small garden takes a lot of planning, and if it is needed to produce crops throughout the year it has to be fed. There is small margin for losses and catch-cropping means crowding and a loss in quality. Potatoes and vegetables are never grown in the back garden to compete with the retailer, but to reduce the bill at times by the doing of something that the householder enjoys. "These are my own King Edwards" is said with great pride. The potatoes are often the equal of anything grown by farms devoting acres to the purpose.

In spite of its patchwork pattern and its being neither one thing nor the other, I think back-garden production is bound to have a small effect if only through numbers of households' being self-supporting for as little as a week or two in the fifty-two; and if supply and demand mean what they are said to mean, it must help even the lazy man who has no pride in his vegetable garden. Perhaps this is the secret reason why some people get such satisfaction from watching others toiling in the garden.

* * *

OUR own gardening could hardly endanger the market or put anyone out of business. The back garden in general is probably a fixed thing in the equation in any case. This year our potatoes and apples were stored indoors as usual. The potatoes turned out to be only a fair

crop. The apples were not quite so good as they might have been. Pears were very good, but they have been good for a number of years and siting and the fact that the trees are in their prime are obviously responsible. Grapes were good, too. We have our good years with grapes, but one that fills the baskets seems bound to be followed by a lean one, and at the bottom of it all is the knowledge—or lack of knowledge—of pruning and thinning. Leave too many bunches on a vine, and the vine will have its rest in the following season. Neglect thinning, and the bunches will be indifferent quality. The hot, dry summer produced grapes of a finer flavour than any we have had. The vines should have been laid and they might have had more care when the bunches appeared, but, in spite of this degree of neglect, all went well. For some reason this happens with all sorts of things. There is a lesson in humility in it, but who can resist giving a friend a few apples or grapes in a good season and implying that skill did more than the weather? In a bad season the excuses are all at hand.

* * *

FOR some years I have been meaning to have a meal of sperling, or sparling as they are called in my locality. An inexcusable vagueness about the sparling season and how to obtain the fish has put off the feast, but recently I was stimulated to find out more about these fish, which are said to come into only two rivers in Britain. I came across Leslie P. Thompson's reference to sparling in *Fishing in New England*, published not long ago. Mr. Thompson, in a section of his book devoted to smelts, says that when these are being fished for in New England great shoals of pretty little fish are seen and these are mistakenly called capelin or sperling, the latter being the English name for the common smelt. Although I have never tasted sparling, which have an aroma of cucumber about them, I always thought the sparling taken in the River Conway to be a distinct species of fish.

Whatever the sparling really is, it has its legend like everything else in Wales. Welsh people call sparling brwynead, for brwyn is Welsh for rush and the fish is claimed to have a scent of rushes rather than cucumber. Sparling, says someone who found out about them for me, are to be caught in the Conway from September to March. They are rarely taken by rod and line and come only in twos and threes until the real sparling season arrives at the end of March. Shoals of sparling come upriver in spring and they used to pass under a handsome and narrow bridge at the old town of Llanwrst on March 26, when cattle were passing over it on Conway's Fair Day. The main catches now are confined to the operations of two fishermen on the sandy stretch of river a mile or two below the town.

* * *

ENQUIRING about the rush scent, I was told that that, too, has a legend. Llansant Ffraid produced sparling by throwing handfuls of rushes into the river and then blessing the water. The rushes turned into fish. Having found out when the fish are caught, I might now manage to get a dish of them for the table. They sell, or used to sell, for about fivepence each, which makes them a fairly expensive meal, for they measure about six or seven inches in length. The catch is generally bespoke, for the people who want to say they have eaten sparling are legion. I cannot think why it should come up to the bridge on Fair Day and why it should only come up the Conway and one other river. A friend suggests that it has a homing instinct something like the sea trout's. Perhaps it spawns somewhere in the river or the estuary. The journey from the sea suggests that this may be so. Perhaps sparling enter only those rivers with a low degree of pollution, but one would expect them to be found in quite a number of rivers in the west. The locals have nothing to say about this. "The Conway and one other river," they insist. I have not been able to find out what the other river is.

SNOW ON THE FELLS

***Written and Illustrated by* W. A. POUCHER**

THE sublime beauty of snow on the fells yields enchanting pictures that are the special preserve of the Lakeland resident, as it is unusual to find many visitors in the district during the winter, save, perhaps, the few who go there for their Christmas holidays. Between the wars I sometimes spent this vacation with my family at one of the comfortable hotels in either Borrowdale or Patterdale, when about thirty of us foregathered there. Despite our hopes of a white anniversary, we seldom experienced the delights of snow, other than a sprinkling on the tops. But on the rare occasions when the fall was considerable we lost no time in making for the fells immediately after breakfast, always adhering to the inflexible rule of leaving the summit cairn no later than 2 p.m. in order to ensure reaching the valley in safety before dark. The loveliness of the Lakeland scene had then to be seen to be believed, and when it was graced by an unsullied blue sky the sunlight scintillated so brilliantly on the snow that it made a sight that could not be excelled by any in the Alps.

There have been one or two severe winters during the last decade when there was so much snow that it interfered with transport, not only on the lofty passes, but also on the valley highways. In 1947 I travelled there hurriedly by rail and for convenience stayed in Windermere, but every walk from this centre had to be undertaken entirely on foot, as no bus services were in operation at the time. This limited my activities and the furthest point I reached was the summit of Fairfield. But it was a glorious experience to tread the crisp snow in solitude, with the swish of my nailed boots making the only sound to break the wonderful silence. It was hard going up the long slopes of this mountain, but I gained my reward on reaching the top, for everywhere around me stretched a dazzling white panorama, seemingly of another world in which I was monarch of all I surveyed. I well remember examining closely the strange snow pattern formed by the wind on the summit, whence I looked across the deep rift of Grisedale at my feet to the broad ridge rising to Helvellyn, hoping there to pick out another moving black

DERWENTWATER IN WINTER, LOOKING ACROSS TO CAUSEY PIKE AND GRISEDALE PIKE FROM FRIAR'S CRAG

SNOW ON THE LANGDALE PIKES

dot that might be sharing my treasured experience. But I was the only human being on those gleaming white fells that day.

During this stay I had another memorable long walk from Windermere, and it revealed many beautiful views of both fell and dale. My route went by way of Moor Howe to Garburn Pass, whence I kept to the crest of the Ill Bell chain as far as Thornthwaite Crag; and, although the sky was blue overhead, patches of cloud lay on the higher tops, while a bitterly cold east wind swept across the district. I wore four thin sweaters under my wind jacket, and had to keep going all the time to maintain bodily warmth. On reaching the pass I was met by winds that tore angrily through the opening and thereafter found it easier and more comfortable to walk below the crest of the broad ridge. But when I reached the summit of Ill Bell it was so powerful that I could not stand upright, let alone hold my camera still. Long hoary icicles stretched outwards from the cairn, which not only disclosed remarkable views of the ridge of Helvellyn, but also of the peaks ahead of me, which were so heavily snowbound that they might have been in the Alps.

On a previous occasion a party of us climbed Helvellyn from Patterdale by way of Striding Edge, which was not only snowbound but icy. We deemed it advisable to rope up for

THE SLOPES OF HELVELLYN, SEEN FROM FAIRFIELD

THE CREST OF WETHERLAM FROM TARN HOWS, NEAR CONISTON

the narrow traverse which is so easy in summer, and our ice axes came in particularly handy during the final ascent of the Abyss. But one of us lost his axe later while descending the upper section of Swirral Edge, an incident that might have proved disastrous had he been alone.

My son and I stayed in Eskdale another winter, and our finest climb was the ascent of Scafell Pike by way of Esk Gorge. The snow was not very deep and we encountered no difficulty in gaining our objective, but what impressed us most was the apparent emptiness of the landscape, as we saw neither bird nor sheep that day. An unforgettable experience was an attempt to ascend one of the Napes Gullies on Great Gable in heavy snow conditions. The familiar Climbers' Traverse across the foot of the ridges was obliterated completely, and had I not known it so well I might have doubted its existence. There were only two of us in the party, and, after making our way below the Sphinx with the greatest difficulty we finally abandoned the route and toiled up Great Hell Gate to reach the summit of our peak. The day was one of the clearest I remember, so much so that distant hills like Skiddaw and Blencathra seemed only a mile away. Other happy hunting grounds in winter are the Langdale Pikes and Blencathra. The former reveal entrancing vistas of the snowy giants dominating the central fells, while the highlight of the latter is the view across its southern spurs, which glint like Alpine arêtes when seen from the east after mid-day.

But in my enthusiasm for the fells I must not overlook the charm of the lakes themselves, because on a still day in winter they are tapestries of wonderful beauty. All of them have their matchless features, but the easiest of access are Windermere and Derwentwater, as they can be reached by rail. Windermere is especially attractive when seen from near Low Wood, as it occupies an open site on the water's edge and on a favourable day may disclose reflections of the Coniston Fells, Crinkle Crags and the Pikes. Another excellent and revealing view point is Orrest Head, which, owing to its greater height, unveils the head of the lake in its entirety, backed by the medley of distant fells.

However, Derwentwater has a very special charm in that it can be encircled on foot from Keswick in a day, and every step unfolds a changing scene of surpassing loveliness. It is preferable to walk along its eastern shore in the morning and return by way of its western fringe during the afternoon; for then the sunlight is at a favourable angle for both observation and photography. One of the great scenes will always be that from Friar's Crag, because the Grasmoor Fells provide a superb backdrop to the whole. The craggy hump of Causey Pike vies in splendour with the sharp shadowed ridge rising to Grisedale Pike, while the soft morning light on the crag in the foreground, coupled with the lake's reflection of the foregoing group of hills, makes a beautiful picture. Another noble scene is revealed from the crag itself and from its approaches; for the picture is then dominated by the shapely lines of Skiddaw, a mountain to look at rather than to climb.

Wandering southwards along the shore, one soon reaches Scarfclose Bay, which opens up another delightful prospect of the hills, with tree-clad Broomhill Point in the foreground. The path now rises gently through the trees to give access to the road, and hereabouts there is a splendid viewpoint for the conspicuous Jaws of Borrowdale, seen across the head of the lake. With time in hand a short diversion may be made to Ashness Bridge, because its elevated position discloses a charming retrospect of the foot of the lake, backed by Skiddaw. Thereafter the road must be followed to Lodore, whence a path crosses the greensward to Manesty. A short walk below Cat Bells leads to Brandelhow Park, which unfolds exceptional vistas of Walla and Falcon Crags rising above the wooded eastern slopes bounding the lake.

Far to the south and on the other side of the district lies Tarn Hows, an enchanting, hidden valley cradling a lovely sheet of water and surrounded by low hills, shaggy with larch and fir. Pedestrians may reach it from either Coniston or Skelwith Bridge, and in snow and sunshine the place is one of the most brilliantly scintillating jewels in the Lakeland crown. At any time of year this is a peaceful spot in which to linger, and in summer it is sprinkled with passing hikers and motorists who may drive there and leave their cars in a newly made spacious park. But in winter I have been there alone and occasionally with a friend, and then we have had it all to ourselves. To appreciate the beauty of Tarn Hows fully it is best first to encircle the indented lakelet by the path through the heather and bracken that runs along its shore. From various points the snowy heads of Coniston Old Man and Wetherlam are seen to rise above the trees on the shore itself, as well as above those decking the tiny islets studding the lake. Then, to open up a broader vista of the distant fells it is necessary only to ascend the high ground at its southern end, as from this elevated point the Langdale Pikes and the Helvellyn range are revealed as a magnificent background.

SCAFELL PIKE FROM ESKDALE GORGE

THREE ACRES AND A SPADE

Written and Illustrated by **E. E. KIRBY**

ON the map Snigs End in Gloucestershire looks like a bad example of ribbon development. Rows of dots symbolising houses line the main road from Ledbury to Gloucester and continue at right angles with an exactness never found in the traditional village. On inspection the lay-out appears pleasant and could give ideas to some contemporary planners. The twin settlement of Lowbands, less than a couple of miles away, is a quietly rural backwater. Thousands of travellers drive through Snigs End without a notion that a hundred years ago the settlement began as a bold and revolutionary experiment.

The present inhabitants are not over-fond of the original name—still retained on the map—preferring to identify themselves with Staunton or Corse. Certainly Snigs End lacks charm, quite apart from its early associations with a feared and hated political movement—Chartism—and a much loved and hated leader, the turbulent demagogue Feargus O'Connor. It is regrettable that no biography of O'Connor exists and no history of this settlement. Yet the full story, if it could be recaptured from the scanty records, would provide material for a novel as poignant as Kingsley's *Yeast*.

In 1846 O'Connor inaugurated the Chartist Co-operative Land Society, later called the National Land Company. This formed the second of his battle-cries, "the Charter and the Land," and envisaged a nation-wide scheme of smallholdings occupied by the sweated, starved and oppressed victims of the Industrial Revolution. The scheme, he claimed, would lessen the surplus on the labour market, convince the Government that such measures deserved official support and make plain "the value of the land as a means of making them (the working-classes) independent of the grinding capitalist." O'Connor boasted some knowledge of agriculture, compiled a book on farm management and, when the plan was launched, edited—with the help of Ernest Jones, an aristocratic recruit—a periodical called *The Labourer*. As a mob-orator he was violent, sanguine and irresistible. To the humbler Chartists it all sounded like the New Jerusalem. The figures are eloquent. Subscriptions—mostly in pence rather than shillings—reached the amazing total of at least £80,000. Some authorities put it half as high again.

Half-a-dozen large estates were bought and sub-divided. The first was O'Connorville, near Rickmansworth, acquired in 1847, followed by the best-known, Charterville in Oxfordshire, with Snigs End and Lowbands in Gloucestershire, Dodford in Worcestershire and Mathon in Herefordshire. Holdings varied from one to four acres according to the amount subscribed. The fund provided buildings—at a total cost with the land of not more than £300—a first ploughing and a small sum as working capital. A nominal annual rental, some accounts say £5, was to be paid to the Company. The tenants were to subsist by "spade husbandry" directed to root crops, with potatoes as the staple.

THE PRINCE OF WALES INN AT SNIGS END, NEAR GLOUCESTER. Snigs End was established in 1847 by Feargus O'Connor, the Chartist, as a settlement on the land for industrial workers; the inn was originally the school

It is easy enough now to decide that this ambitious conception was doomed from the start. The scheme had no legal status, qualifying as neither a friendly society nor a registered company. The Government was hostile; a powerful section of the Chartists regarded it as a red herring drawing support away from the Charter; local authorities feared new paupers on the rates, and the feelings of the country people on this invasion by "foreigners" linger in the district to the present day. It is possible that a settlement of genuine peasants might have worked, but the newcomers were miners and textile operatives from the North, mechanics from Birmingham (where Chartism had some of its sturdiest supporters; witness the riots of 1839) and the wretched stocking weavers of Leicester. No doubt the inn parlours made merry over the ignorance of urban Hodge, and there must have been many tales like that of the settler who thrashed his pig for squealing when the poor animal was clamouring for food. In all, these were formidable obstacles and hardly needed the trouble caused by demand far outstripping supply, so that it was necessary to ballot for allotments among the 70,000 shareholders. Above all, sound and cautious finance was imperative, and O'Connor was something of a wildcat.

O'CONNOR VILLA, A COTTAGE IN SNIGS END. This cottage dates from June, 1848, and was probably the last of the colony to be built

The whole history of Snigs End will never be told. Much of it has gone for good, with its inevitable record of frustration, misery and probably tragedy. Officially the end came in 1848, after the failure of the great National Petition to Parliament. No doubt as a countermeasure the Government appointed a select committee to examine the accounts of the Land Company. These were found to be chaotic and close to bankruptcy, though O'Connor was freed of the charge of peculation and found to have lost a good deal of his own money in the venture. A year or two later he was sending bailiffs to Snigs End, but apparently the tenants refused either to pay or to quit, declaring that they were "prepared to manure the land with blood before it was taken from them." From this point there is a blank, beyond the single fact that when cultivation failed an attempt was made to introduce the glove-making industry.

Physically the settlement remains to-day much as it was. The little single-storey cottages of brick or stone stand well back in their holdings and reflect the individual tastes of the present occupiers. Trees have matured and in many cases the original plan of a central living-room, kitchen and bedroom has been enlarged. There must have been gross overcrowding with the first settlers, at a time when large families were the rule rather than the exception. In Moat Lane, one of the offshoots, may be found what was almost certainly the last of the colony to be built. This bears on the trefoil over the door the inscription "O'Connor Villa. June 12, 1848," which is the year and month of the founder's bankruptcy. The present owner remembers his grandfather's triumph at winning the ballot and tells stories of the boycotting of the invaders. Apparently the Gloucestershire men refused to buy potatoes from the newcomers and would rather stubbornly fetch them from a distance.

Snigs End might be said to pivot on the handsome inn, the Prince of Wales, with its spacious and well-kept green in front. A central tower of brick with stone quoins is flanked by wings, and the whole effect is outside the English public-house tradition. A talk with the landlord elicited the history of the building. It was once the settlement school; one wing was the headmaster's house and the other—now the inn lounge—the school-room. It was converted into a public house when another school was built near by.

The landlord told me that an almost identical school building still existed at Lowbands, the twin settlement that with Snigs End made up 84 holdings. Lowbands is not quite so symmetrically planned, is not unattractive, and on a summer day appears deserted. The old school near by is hidden by overgrown orchards at the end of a rough track. It follows the same plan, allowing for some changes made by conversion into a private dwelling now known as the Towers. The story goes that it was never used as a school as recognition was refused.

The National Land Company must be accepted as a remarkable achievement and may well prove to be O'Connor's most enduring monument. In all he is said to have established 230 families. His mathematics were as weak as his finance, and no doubt he was surprised when one of his critics demonstrated that it would take over 600 years to house his qualified shareholders.

HISTORY IN CERAMICS

By STANLEY W. FISHER

1.—LAMBETH DELFT PLATE PAINTED IN GREEN, BLUE AND AUBERGINE WITH A REPRESENTATION OF LUNARDI'S BALLOON ASCENT. ABOUT 1785. (*Right*) 2.—BLUE-PRINTED PLATE BY JOHN MARTIN, OF SHELTON, WITH A RARE CANAL SUBJECT AND A DOGGEREL VERSE. ABOUT 1800

IN the years before the invention of photography, and the exhaustive and immediate coverage of national and world events by Press and wireless, the happenings of the day were placed on record through other mediums. The historian, the actor, the artist and the writer each played his part, but it is not generally realised that the potter, too, was not slow to take advantage of the popular demand for a pictorial record of important events, and much ceramic decoration, however crude some of it may be, comprises a lasting record of days gone by.

Decoration of this kind is to be found frequently on both pottery and porcelain, in the form not only of pictures, but also, sometimes, of quite long inscriptions. Naturally enough, of course, the artist on porcelain catered for a higher stratum of society, for patrons who understood and expected a reasonable standard of excellence. On the other hand, because earthenware was always the ware of the common man, the decoration and the inscriptions upon it were concerned with their own lives, customs and interests, and any subject outside those restricted bounds appealed only by reason of an appeal to piety, sentiment, patriotism, a sense of justice, or humour. It is evident that our English potters lost no opportunity of taking advantage of their countrymen's susceptibilities in these matters, particularly when the invention of printing upon pottery, in the mid 18th century, made it so much easier for them to do so. Even earlier, during the 17th century, the slipware makers of Wrotham, Yorkshire, Staffordshire and elsewhere found a ready rustic market for pieces bearing such injunctions as "DRINK FAIRE DON'T SWARE" or "BE NOT HIGMINDED BUT FEARE GOD," but transfer printing enabled the craftsmen of the Potteries easily to reach the mantelpiece of every village inn, and in so doing to amuse, educate and enlighten the villagers and, incidentally, to bequeath valuable knowledge to posterity.

Few events of importance were unrecorded; there are pieces reporting the birth of Siamese twins, and a wealth of more-or-less accurate representations of velocipedes and bicycles, railway trains, bridges and even balloons. The Thames Tunnel, opened in 1843, was not neglected. Boxers and cricket matches, elections, the Reform Bill crisis and the anti-Corn Law campaign of 1840 all found their place in gay colours on plates, mugs and jugs, and war of any kind, then as now, was glorified and made the subject even of humour. So it is that there are many pieces which bear versions of Gillray's Napoleonic War caricatures, and even more which commemorate in picture and in verse the lives, deeds and deaths of national heroes. One such, featuring Nelson, even bears a list of his fleet at Trafalgar, with a careful plan of the battle, and another in more sentimental vein appeals to the soft-hearted Briton to give financial aid to the bereaved Emma Hamilton. The only existing information regarding many a long-forgotten volunteer troupe or society is to be found on the enormous jugs which were made for their use.

Crude and inaccurate as much of this kind of decoration may be, its value lies in its contemporary nature, in its revealing evidence of the public opinion of that time and in its forthright, honest bluntness and common sense.

3.—EARLY-19th-CENTURY NEWCASTLE CREAMWARE MUG COMMEMORATING NELSON

My first photograph (Fig. 1) illustrates a plate of Lambeth delft, made towards the end of the 18th century, and painted in green, blue and aubergine. One can ignore the incongruous Chinese style of the decoration, from which our early potters found it so difficult to depart, but its subject is of the greatest interest, as it depicts the first flight by a balloon in this country, made when Vincent Lunardi took off on September 15, 1784, from Moorfields, to land two and a quarter hours later at Standon Green End, not far from Ware, in Hertfordshire.

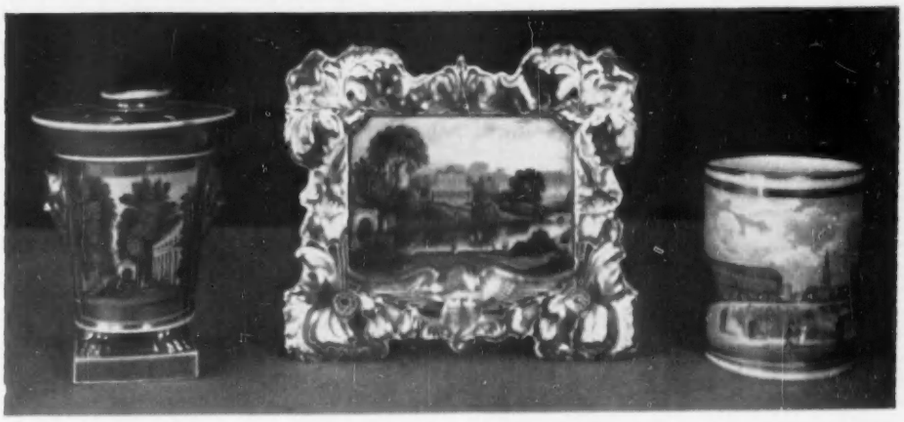
A monument on the spot is perhaps a more lasting memorial of Lunardi's feat, but scarcely as colourful and decorative as plates of this kind, which were made at Bristol as well as at Lambeth.

Quite another kind of transport is featured in Fig. 2, and one which is very much in the public eye at this moment. The blue-printed earthenware plate was made by John Martin, of Shelton, between about 1800 and 1820, at a time when canals were in their hey-day and when the boatmen were hard-working, hard-living, even romantic fellows whose arrival with the latest news and canal-side gossip was eagerly awaited by the villagers. It seems that their day is done, but some at least have been given a measure of immortality in the verse which appears beneath the

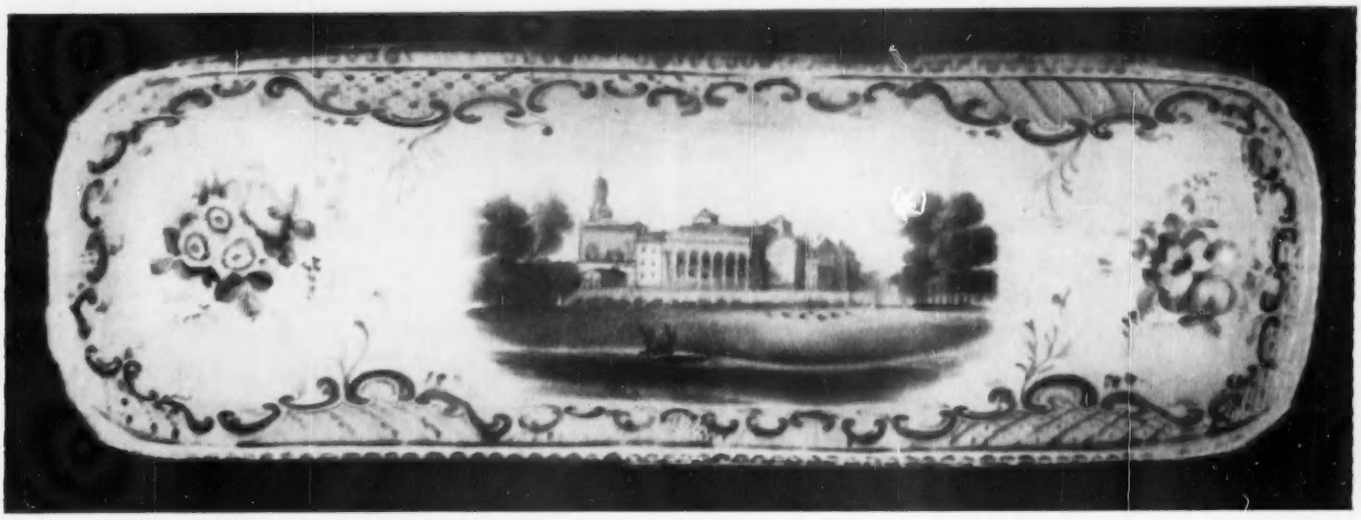
canal-side scene and in the ribbons of the border:

Pickford, Beach, & Snell's, are jolly Lads,
& true ones:
Kenworthy, & Worthington's, You'll likewise
find true blue ones:
Wakeman, Green & Ames, amiss you'll
never find Sirs,
Holt's, Crocket & Salkeld's, will sail fast as
the wind Sirs.
True harted & jolly ones you'll find with
Heath & Crawley,
Sturland's Henshall's, Alkin's too, can like-
wise use their mauley
So likewise can the Boatmen all, & drink their
can of flip Sirs.
Thay'll drink there grog, & toast their lass,
& then thay'll
Crack their whip Sirs.

Fig. 3 shows a typical memorial piece, chosen from many made after Nelson's death in 1805. Besides the fact that the name of the factory, Newcastle, appears in the black decoration, this mug is remarkable in several respects. It is well



4.—THREE EARLY-19th-CENTURY VIEWS OF CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. (*Left to right*) FLIGHT WORCESTER POT-POURRI VASE, SHOWING THE OLD WELL WALK: CHAMBERLAIN WORCESTER PLAQUE, SHOWING THE PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM: GRAINGER WORCESTER MUG, SHOWING THE CRESCENT



5.—COALPORT PIN-TRAY PAINTED WITH A VIEW OF WITLEY COURT, WORCESTERSHIRE. ABOUT 1850

6.—WORCESTER PORCELAIN PILGRIM BOTTLE DECORATED IN THE JAPANESQUE STYLE WITH A POTTING SCENE. ABOUT 1865

composed and presents the facts accurately and grammatically without an excess of maudlin sentiment, and the likeness is probably one of the most faithful of the austere, somewhat emaciated hero of later years that has ever been published.

Scenes from industry were seldom used as decoration on either pottery or porcelain, for indeed they were not suitable, but a notable exception was a series of Worcester vases or pilgrim bottles made about 1865 in what was called the Japanesque style. These pieces were modelled by J. Hadley, who later founded a factory of his own, and their decoration by the famous Callowhill brothers depicted the process of porcelain-making as carried on by the Japanese. The specimen illustrated (Fig. 6) shows the operation of throwing on the potter's wheel, in this case of a primitive form from which our modern mechanical ones have been evolved.

During the early 19th century painters on porcelain perfected a style of landscape painting which resulted in Derby, Worcester and Coalport specimens whose decoration affords a colourful and accurate record of the contemporary English countryside. The Derby artists concentrated for the most part upon the scenery around Matlock and in the valley of the Derwent, while those of the Severn-side factories chose their subjects mainly from the neighbourhood of Worcester and Malvern. At the same time the owners of the numerous great estates and mansions of the Midland counties ordered services which bore paintings of them, and Fig. 5 shows a Coalport pin-tray upon which is a view of Witley Court, near Worcester, once the seat of Lord Foley and later of the Earl of Dudley. To the left may be seen the wonderful church with its golden dome, its statuary, painted ceiling and stained glass, which was in danger of total decay until the opportune grant which was reported in COUNTRY LIFE not long ago.

The early-19th-century repute of Cheltenham as a spa second only perhaps to Bath is remembered in the three Worcester pieces shown in Fig. 4. The Flight pot-pourri vase depicts the Old Well Walk, the Grainger mug honours the little-known but lovely Crescent, and the Pittville Pump Room, which was once the sparkling centre of Cheltenham social life, appears in its peaceful lakeside setting upon the richly gilded Chamberlain plaque.

These few illustrations are perhaps sufficient to show that the collector of pottery and porcelain, whether consciously or otherwise, is at the same time an archivist of the past. His collection, apart from its intrinsic beauty and value, and from its attributes of technical progress and achievement with regard to potting, paste and glaze, comprises in its coloured decoration a picture book of history, a history which is not the dry record of the text-book, but the fascinating story of the daily lives and interests of everyday people.

Illustrations: 1 and 2, collection of Mr. H. J. Lewis; 3, collection of Capt. D. Cooper; 4, Cheltenham Museum; 6, Worcester Royal Porcelain Company.

"SHEER MURDER" IN AN ORCHARD

Written and Illustrated by RAYMOND BUSH

A SMALL ORCHARD IN 1954, BEFORE BEING OPENED UP BY THE REMOVAL OF UNWANTED TREES AND BRANCHES. (*Right*) THE ORCHARD IN SPRING, 1955, AFTER THE OPENING UP

THREE years ago a relative of mine moved into a house which had been the gardener's cottage of a considerable property. With the house went a couple of acres of what had been a good kitchen garden and nearly half an acre of orchard. All of it had remained untouched for two years or more and the whole garden was in a very neglected condition. No fruit worth picking had developed during 1953-54, which had wet summers.

I gave instructions, before leaving in the autumn of 1954 to winter in Jamaica, for the opening up of the orchard, which consisted of 25-year-old apple trees, branching from near soil level. The trees, being on very vigorous stocks, on good soil, were overgrown and interlocked with one another, forming a dense shade. As is usual with amateur-grown trees they had been spurred back and owing to lack of light many of the lower and inner spurs were dead or moribund. Fruit could only be expected from the old spurs where sunlight could penetrate. As the tops of the trees grew too high they had been headed back, and in three years of neglect had produced immensely strong clusters of vertical shoots which in the old regime would have been ruthlessly cut back to hatpegs.

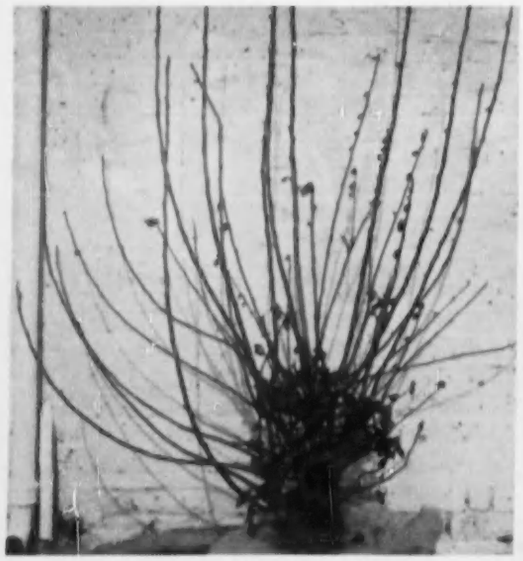
This state of affairs is often found in neglected gardens and some account of what was done to bring the trees back into bearing may be useful to others.

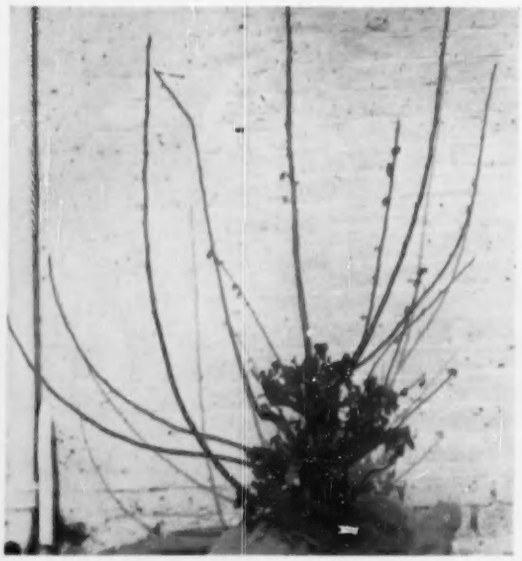
My instructions were that of the 70 trees alternate trees should be cut clean off at about three feet above ground and if possible a tractor should be brought in to pull the stumps up. (This, however, could not be done, so they were left.) Then, if any trees still showed signs of overcrowding, more trees around the selected best should be also removed. Since no cropping could be expected under existing conditions, ruthless treatment could be undertaken with no fear of loss. A local gardener who stopped to see the work in progress described it as sheer murder.

As the trees were infested with greenfly, apple sucker and winter moth caterpillars from neighbouring big oak trees, and since scab and canker were severe and widespread, I left word that a full spraying programme must be applied to the survivors and arranged for a spraying machine and a full quota of spraying materials.

In addition to the pruning out of all dead and very weak spurs, two sound but overcrowded spurs were to be removed to every one left and buds reduced to two per spur. The overgrown tops were to be reduced to three long branches each, since these showed good fruit bud (having been unpruned for three years) on their lower halves. Any strong laterals or side shoots growing from spur wood near the tops were also to be left unpruned to drop with the weight of any fruit which matured. All such shoots, however, were to have a minimum spacing of two feet between them.

The trees had from six to eight very heavy cordon-like main branches and at least half of these were to be taken out, all branches crowding the centres of the trees being cut out completely. All this entailed much secateur work and some very heavy sawing. It was a counsel of perfection and I realised that it was unlikely to be fully done.





TYPICAL OVERGROWN TOP OF UNPRUNED BRANCH. (*Right*) THE SAME TOP LIMITED TO A FEW BRANCHES

The varieties of apple in the orchard were King Edward VII, Newton Wonder, Bramley, Lane's Prince Albert, Bismarck, Peasgood, Grosvenor, Northern Greening, Cox's Orange and King of the Pippins. All very different in habit of natural growth, vigour and resistance to scab, but all spur pruned for a generation. Lane's alone had failed to maintain the rigid shape which was intended.

For anyone not used to fruit-growing this was a major operation and I give my relatives full marks for having done a wonderful job in the cold winter of 1954-55. When I returned to England last April, of the original 70 trees only 30 remained. To open up one big Bramley four trees had been removed, but the loss of the others had left a real specimen tree behind. A big stack of heavy branch wood promised ample logs for several winters. All the trees now had space and light.

The orchard had been sprayed

A BIG BRAMLEY OPENED UP AND THE MIDDLE REMOVED

with a BMC/DDT preparation at bud burst in mid April and aphis, sucker and caterpillar were well controlled. A later influx of winter moth caterpillars from the oaks was dealt with by a DDT spray, and a captan spray was applied at fortnightly intervals from the green-bud stage, though it became difficult to maintain these sprays right through the season and the amount of leaf really needed a power sprayer to give full protection. But for an exceptionally fine summer after mid-June control of scab would not have been as complete as it was.

The main object in the pruning had been to give the trees what they had lacked for so long—full light and the removal of infective and dead wood—to encourage the formation of fruit bud by allowing a fair proportion of 2- and 3-year-old shoots to remain unpruned, and to keep all free from damaging pests and diseases.

By May it was obvious that much blossom would mature into fruit. The long laterals and the top shoots carried much bloom and as fruit set the weight brought them well down to the horizontal and later to the dropping habit which is essential for heavy bearing. On all new wood fruit grew large or very large, much bigger than the fruit on the old spurs, but thanks to determined spraying all were perfectly clean and scab free. Even the Cox's trees, which had been cruelly damaged by scab and the ensuing canker infections in 1953-54, grew perfectly clean shoots with sound leaf and top-grade fruit.

In the autumn good crops were harvested save from the Newton Wonder trees, which were in their "off" year — being biennial croppers. The single Bramley produced over 80 lb. of outsize apples, the Grosvenors, reduced to one tree, gave about 160 lb. of big fruit, Cox's gave their first few bushels of fine fruit for the first time in 25 years. Bismarck, a notoriously scabby variety, grew leaves almost as big as dinner plates and a heavy crop in its upper register. The King of the Pippins were a break-down crop, and the Lane's Prince Albert had to be heavily propped against breakage. Northern Greening were overloaded, and while Edward VII set a nice crop it was not a capacity one.

In every case as compared with the previous year the leaf size and substance was doubled and a big promise of bud for next summer was forthcoming, especially on the long laterals and top shoots. It is not often that one can persuade a newcomer to fruit growing really to murder an orchard, but in this case the obvious response was so encouraging that I expect when I return next summer, or the year after, to find an orchard producing from one-third of its original trees far more than the overcrowded orchard could ever have hoped to do.

The only disadvantage in having fruit in bulk from such an orchard is that many of the varieties are out of date and unknown commercially and with lack of proper storage there is difficulty in disposing of the fruit in its best edible condition. Local shops, especially in such a fruit-growing county as Kent, are overstocked with apples of fair to indifferent quality, most of them brought in by their regular wholesale suppliers who deal in potatoes, green-stuffs, oranges, bananas, Italian pears and plums in addition to English fruits. Often enough the retailer admits that he does not like to buy except from his wholesaler for fear of offending him.

To send fruit in small consignments to wholesale markets such as Covent Garden is difficult even in non-returnable packages which are expensive, and wholesalers want hundreds and not tens of bushels at a time. Only the few accepted commercial varieties have any appeal to them and the unknowns, however good-looking, make very low prices. One can hardly expect market wholesalers to supply their own orchard boxes for anything less than hundreds of bushels and at all times the demand for these by commercial growers exceeds the supply.

Still, it is some consolation to have turned a bit of useless jungle into a small Garden of the Hesperides, and provided one can find enough room to store a winter's supply of fine, big, clean apples the labour is not wholly wasted.

A COX'S BEFORE SPRAYING AND PRUNING. (*Right*) NEW TOPS ON THE COX'S AFTER SPRAYING

STRONG TWO- AND THREE-YEAR-OLD VERTICAL SHOOTS LEFT TO COME DOWN WITH FRUIT. (*Middle*) THE TOP OF A BISMARCK BRANCH OPENING UP WITH ITS OWN WEIGHT. (*Right*) KING OF THE PIPPINS BEARING HEAVILY AFTER DRASTIC TREATMENT

BRINGING UP A KEA

By MOLLY FALLA

SEVERAL years ago I had the unusual experience of rearing a baby kea, or New Zealand mountain parrot. This bird is found only in the alps of the South Island and can claim to be one of the most interesting of New Zealand's avian inhabitants. There is, first of all, its engagingly human behaviour, which has entertained generations of mountaineers: far from showing fear, it will always make a thorough investigation of trampers' equipment and activities. Sufferers from sprained ankles have been somewhat taken aback to discover a line of keas solemnly limping behind them, and skiers' huts provide a nocturnal playground, as the birds roll stones down the roof, slithering after them with shrieks of delight.

Unfortunately there has grown up a belief that the kea is a dangerous killer of sheep. Controversy is still rife between sheepmen and naturalists, but while isolated instances of killing have occurred, there is nothing to prove that it is a widespread habit. In fact, keas are naturally vegetarians and grub-eaters and may be observed in the neighbourhood of grazing sheep, paying them not the slightest attention.

Our bird was brought to me at the age of three weeks—a comical-looking ball of grey woolly down. The children and I lost our hearts to him, and he became a much-loved pet, affectionate as any dog, and unbelievably intelligent. It was obvious from the first that he was a bird of character. His dark brown eyes were alight with intelligence, shining out from the mass of thick down with which he was covered. His beak was most odd, parrot-like, but pouched on either side of the gape with waxy skin of a vivid yellow colour.

It was not long before the beak was opening wide and emitting sounds such as you might obtain by blowing with all your might on an extra powerful and deep-toned Christmas squeaker. So I grabbed the porridge saucepan and, making a gruel-like mixture with honey and milk, I warmed it and spooned it down the ravenous throat, until the chick stopped yelling and sank down into a contented torpor.

How vastly different his surroundings had been, two days before this! Some miles east of Lake Sumner, 4,600 ft. above sea-level, the nest had been found: a discovery of no small interest, as kea's nests are rarely seen. It was located on a steep, rocky spur, over which grew a dense covering of *Aciphylla*, New Zealand flax, snow-grass and scrub. Heavy snow had fallen and had partly blocked the opening to the little tunnel, about a foot in diameter, which led some three feet into the nest. Within the nest were discovered two chicks, one of them dead. During a period of some hours no parent came near, so the surviving chick was collected and brought to his adoptive home, achieving a reduced fare on the inter-island ferry by travelling as a canary!

NESTING SITE OF A KEA, OR NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN PARROT, 4,600 FT. UP IN THE ALPS OF SOUTH ISLAND

THREE-WEEK-OLD KEA CHICK JUST AFTER IT HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE NESTING BURROW. Another chick was dead and there was no sign of the parents

With his first square meal, life for him began to look up. His diet of porridge, to which I occasionally added raw egg, was apparently satisfactory, since he received it with gusto and undoubtedly throve. He developed normally into a strong and healthy bird. At first he spent most of his time sleeping on a bed of straw in an apple-box, stretched flat on his tummy, with legs trailing and wings flexed. When, after a week or ten days, he began to be allowed out of his box, he soon learned to waddle about the house, and would indulge in the most entertaining antics, displaying all the attributes of the born comedian. The success of his buffoonery upon an appreciative audience obviously delighted him, and he would cackle and chuckle to himself in low-pitched conversational tones, interspersed with a special kind of musical whistle.

Nothing pleased Kea better than to frolic round the room with some member of the family playing hide-and-seek behind the chairs, or rolling on his back and waving his legs in the air as he invited one to tickle his tummy. One of his games was to allow himself to be lifted off the floor, suspended from a ruler or pencil, to which he clung with beak and claws. He had his own box of toys, containing a red rubber ball and some coloured wooden blocks, with which he would amuse himself in a puppy-like fashion. He displayed, as the weeks went by, a most "'satiable curtiosity." Bright colours and patterns in clothing, carpets and chair-covers intrigued him, and he showed a marked preference for reds and yellows. Objects which would roll, rattle, or tinkle received his close and interested attention. What he most wanted to know was how things worked, and he would attempt to pull corks from bottles or prise lids from tins, playing a kind of football with them and rolling them noisily round the room.

For a while the attraction that pretty blooms in the garden held for him did not stop at admiration alone—he would nip them off—but he graduated from that stage. It became no longer necessary to guard the pink antirrhinums and the gay blooms of the gladioli, though he considered it a treat to be presented with a cut gladiolus stem from which the flowers had dropped, and would clutch it firmly in one foot, chewing it with relish. When the green peas were in pod, he went for daily cruises up and down the rows, re-fuelling ship whenever he came to a plump and juicy pod. However, not all his experiments in tasting were as beneficial to his health: he felt a little unwell after sampling soap and boot polish, and decided it was much more profitable to dig in the earth for grubs and insect larvæ, spending a good deal of

THE KEA HALF-FLEDGED—ABOUT TWO MONTHS OLD

time pecking round old tree-stumps. He also enjoyed nibbling at raw apples, lettuces and any available berries, such as cape gooseberries, strawberries and tomatoes.

I should imagine that, from his own point of view, his most memorable experience was his first flight. He started practising for this when he was about two months old, running and flapping his wings and giving little leaps in the air, and also attempting to fly down from a perch. Finally, when he was fully feathered, about three months old, came the triumph of his first successful flight. He rose high up into the air, and we caught glimpses of the gorgeous orange feathering on the underside of his wings. As he dipped and circled, we marvelled at the flashes of crimson, and of iridescent green and turquoise blue—colours not usually associated with the sombre moss-green of kea plumage, and not easily seen unless one has opportunities of making observations at close range.

At five months of age he enjoyed the freedom of the neighbourhood, sometimes visiting friends a quarter of a mile away across the gully. His customary hour for these calls was early morning, and it was quite usual for his hosts to be wakened by having the bedclothes pulled from their faces. This was the consequence of having offered him cake on his first visit. When he was within call, he never failed to come immediately to our summons of "Kee-a, kee-a!" and he always announced his return home from a flight with a special call to us. He now no longer slept in an apple-box, but at nights perched in Kea's Bungalow, which was a very large packing-case with a hinged, wire-netting front. In the day-time he was free. Although by nature so inquisitive, he never exhibited any vicious tendencies. Far from his attacking other birds, on two occasions when he disappeared at bedtime and spent the night at large, he was chased home—once by blackbirds and once by morepork owls. It was a very subdued Kea that flew to my arms for comfort.

When he was on exhibition before strangers, his demeanour was usually cautious, and he kept his most engaging tricks for the family. His relief sometimes at the departure of visitors was amusing. "Polly put the kettle on, they've all gone away!" one could imagine him to be saying. However, his curiosity sometimes got the better of his reserve. One of my friends recounts that her first meeting with Kea took place at morning tea-time. Shortly after I had appeared with the tray, the curtains parted and a quaint little bird waddled in after me. He stood at the feet of each visitor in turn and scrutinised her solemnly, but made no further overture. Very rarely he would accept the offer of the dregs of tea from a guest's cup; his head would go right inside it and he would suck noisily. He was always interested in the daily comings and goings of the different members of the family. Each morning he would waddle down the path to wish his master and the children farewell, and in the evenings he would rush to meet them on their return with welcoming chuckles. One morning my husband accidentally trod on his foot, and Kea's reactions were most vociferous. After being caressed and comforted, however, he apparently quite forgot about the sore foot, much as a child might have done. That evening he began to run as usual to the gate to welcome his master home. Suddenly, a few yards from the gate, he pulled up and scowled at my husband, and, lifting one foot, came limping back to me. As he had shown no sign at all of limping during the day, the family's mirth was prodigious. It became more so when we realised that he was holding up the wrong foot.

To my knowledge, our bird is the only case on record of a nestling kea's having been hand-reared. I have known of keas kept as pets which have been captured when full grown, and I have read a most interesting account by Mr. Sidney Porter of his having successfully bred keas in his aviary some ten years ago. But it seems that the circumstances surrounding the raising of our kea were unique. Cynical friends envisaged a future in which our pet, reared with so much loving care, would one day laugh rudely and fly off, never to return. Others prophesied that his kind protectors would be driven destitute on to the streets, leaving him in possession of a once happy home—every stick of furniture and every family treasure rent in pieces or torn to shreds.

None of these things happened. When just five months old, Kea died. My husband and I had been obliged to attend a conference away from home, and it was about a week after our departure that Kea became critically ill. We returned home for a week-end and he appeared to revive, but we then had to leave again for the conclusion of the conference. It was after this that he had a relapse from which he did not recover. The symptoms seemed at the time to be those of phosphorus poisoning, but as a post-mortem revealed nothing, we have since wondered whether his illness was caused by pining. The whole family was heartbroken, and it was our shared opinion that never again should we have a pet quite so beloved or so unusual.

AT ABOUT FIVE MONTHS OF AGE AND (*below*) TAKING AN INTEREST IN HIS MASTER'S PIPE

GROOMBRIDGE PLACE, KENT—II

THE HOME OF MR. S. W. MOUNTAIN

By ARTHUR OSWALD

For nearly two centuries Groombridge was the home of the Wallers, and much woodwork with other fittings from their house was re-used by Philip Packer when he rebuilt it about 1660. The tradition that the Duke of Orleans was held in captivity at Groombridge is discussed.

WHEN Philip Packer, friend of John Evelyn, rebuilt Groombridge Place, he was content to use the old site within the moated enclosure of its mediæval predecessor. Though Evelyn disapproved, it seems to us to-day that no lovelier setting could have been devised for this simple, unpretentious house, so beautifully proportioned and exquisite in colour that it has been claimed as the ideal English home. The mediæval house of the Wallers was almost certainly quadrangular, and the present house may have taken shape within the courtyard while parts of the old one were still standing. Economy was evidently a consideration, and this rather than conservative or romantic sentiments may have decided Packer not to seek a different site. The evidence that he was anxious to economise is to be found inside the house, for many of the rooms have panelling and fireplaces saved from the old one.

1.—FROM THE SOUTH-WEST. THE HOUSE AND STABLE RANGE REFLECTED IN THE MOAT

2.—THE PANELLED PARLOUR IN THE SOUTH WING. The woodwork, saved from the old house, shows very close analogies with panelling in the Old Parsonage, Brenchley

How long this moated site has been occupied it is impossible to say, but it is reasonable to suppose that a house has stood here at least since the 13th century. Groombridge is not named in the Domesday survey, nor is Speldhurst, the parish to which it belongs: most of the parishes of the Kentish Weald receive no mention. The earliest occurrence of the name is in a charter of 1239 by which William Russel and Hawise, his wife, made a grant of lands in pure alms to the chapel of St. John the Apostle "de Gromenebregge" situated in their manor of Redmeregge. *Grome*, the first element in the word, is our "groom," meaning man, servant or attendant, but it is the plural form that occurs in the earliest forms of the name, and it has been suggested by Wallenberg in his *Place-Names of Kent* that the men may have been a guard posted at the bridge across the boundary between two independent districts, which in the days of the heptarchy would have been the kingdoms of Kent and Sussex. The manor of Redmeregge, in which the chapel stood, changed hands several times before being acquired by the Wallers in 1430. It has gone with the manor of Groombridge ever since.

Our first record of the *manor* of Groombridge occurs in 1286. Henry de Cobham and Joan, his wife, obtained leave to hold a weekly market and a three-day annual fair in their manor, hoping, no doubt, that a profitable little market town might develop in this Wealden valley. In the 13th and 14th centuries the Cobhams were a powerful and widely spread family, owning many manors in Kent. The senior line is commemorated by the splendid array of their brasses in Cobham Church. John de Cobham, who died in 1300, had two brothers, one of whom was Reginald, founder of the Starborough Castle family who settled just over the Surrey border and are buried at Lingfield. The other brother, Henry, who became Warden of the Cinque Ports, established a family at Rundale or Roundal, in Shorne, between Cobham and Gravesend. His wife, Joan, was one of the

3.—THE HALL, LINED WITH RE-USED PANELLING FROM THE WALLERS' HOUSE

co-heirs of Stephen de Penchester (of Penshurst), and Groombridge may have been among the manors she brought to her husband. The Cobhams seem to have held it for a century, but at the death of Sir John de Clinton in 1398 a rent of 30s. 8d. was held by him in Groombridge, and according to Hasted, following Philipot, the manor had come to his family by purchase and was sold by his grandson, William, Lord Clinton and Say, to Thomas Waller of Lamberhurst "at the latter end" of Henry IV's reign.

The Wallers already possessed lands in several parishes on the Sussex side of the county boundary as well as at Lamberhurst, but the first of them to achieve more than local eminence was Thomas's grandson, Richard. The story of the exploit with which he has been credited is told as follows in *Villare Cantianum*, the work on Kent published under the name of Thomas Philipot in 1659, but in reality compiled by his father, John Philipot, Somerset Herald, about thirty years earlier. "This is that renowned soldier that in the time of Henry the fifth, took Charles duke of Orleans, general of the French army, prisoner at the battle of Agincourt, brought him over into England, and held him in honourable restraint or custody at Grome-bridge, which a manuscript in the heralds-office, notes to be twenty-four years; in the time of which his recess, he newly errected the house at Grome-bridge upon the old foundation, and was a benefactor to the repair of Spelherst church, where his arms remain in stone-work over the church porch; but, lest such a signal piece of service might remain entombed in the sepulchre of unthankful forgetfulness, the prince, to convey the memory of this glorious action to posterity, assigned to this Richard Waller and his heirs for ever, an additional crest, *videlicet*, the arms or escocheon of France, hanging by a label on an oak, with this motto affixed, *Hæ Fructus Virtutis*."

Research has failed to substantiate this story long cherished at Groombridge. The chronicles make no mention of Waller, and his name does not appear on the Agincourt Roll, but, as part of it is missing, the tradition that he fought in the battle may be correct, though he would have been only a squire, hardly out of his teens. It is possible that it was he who found the Duke alive under a pile of corpses on the battlefield, but it is certain that he was not given charge of so important a prisoner. Pierre Champion, in his *Vie de Charles d'Orléans*, has compiled a detailed itinerary of his movements and a list of the places of his captivity during the years he was a prisoner in England. Groombridge was not one of them, but for a time he was at Starborough Castle, not far away, in the charge of Sir Reginald Cobham. It is probable that the story arose through confusion at a later time between the Duke of Orleans and Jean, Count of Angoulême.

This younger brother of the Duke was handed over as a hostage to the Duke of Clarence in 1412, three years before Agincourt, and his captivity lasted even longer: he was not ransomed until 1445. Waller was certainly given charge of him by Clarence's widow and her son, John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset. Among the *Acts of the Privy Council* (v. 82), under the year 1437, there is an order "that therle of Angulesme in Wallers keping may go to the Duc of Orl' to speke w^t him in both their kepers sight and heryng." Perhaps part of the huge sum extorted to ransom the Count was given to Waller and enabled him to rebuild his house at Groombridge, for he was a trusted official, in the entourage of the Beauforts, became master of the household of Cardinal Beaufort and one of his executors.

Richard Waller had a long military career in France: in 1422 he was captain of the castle and town of Montereau-Faut-Yonne, in 1424 served under John, Duke of Bedford at the battle of Verneuil, was bailiff of Evreux and captain of Conches in 1426, bailiff of Caen in 1430. At home he was sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1434 and of Kent in 1437. When the Kentishmen rose in rebellion,

4.—THE CHAMBER OVER THE HALL, LOOKING SOUTH

the commission to arrest their leader, Jack Cade, was given to him. In spite of his long service under the Lancastrians, he succeeded in making his peace with the Yorkist party but died a few months after Edward IV's accession. His elder son, Richard, succeeded him, but Groombridge seems to have passed to his second son, John, who died in 1517.

John Waller was buried in the chancel at Speldhurst, where before the fire of 1791 there were several memorials of the Wallers. William, his elder son, who lived until 1556, had Groombridge, and there was a younger son, John, from whom Sir William Waller, the Parliamentary general, and Edmund Waller, the poet, were both descended. William Waller was succeeded by his grandson, Walter, who was knighted in 1574 and died in 1599. In 1602 Sir Walter's elder son, George, conveyed Groombridge with other property to his younger brother, Thomas, who five years previously had been knighted, but Sir Thomas, who had been living at Brenchley, did not retain it for long, and in 1607 he sold the manors of Groombridge and "Redmeridge" to Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, the Lord Treasurer. It was from his grandson, Richard Sackville, the third Earl, that John Packer bought the estate in 1618.

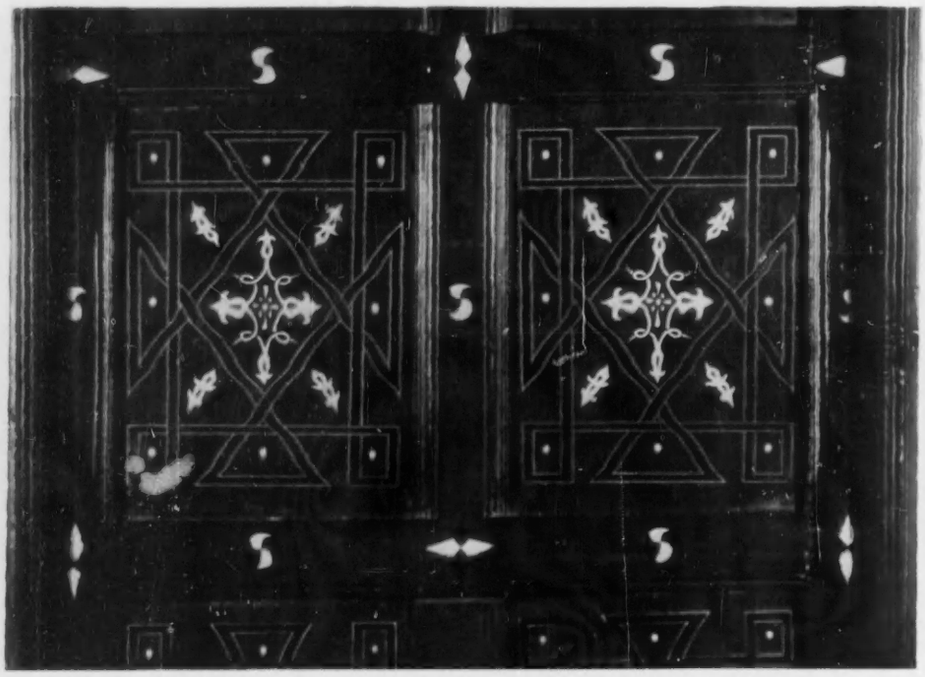
This recital of names and dates will help in placing some of the fittings saved from the Wallers' house and used by Philip Packer in many of the rooms of its successor. As previously noted, the H-plan adopted was old-fashioned, recalling that of many Elizabethan houses. The range connecting the wings contains the hall; in the north wing are the drawing-room and main staircase; the south wing has a parlour on the west front and the kitchen behind, with a pantry and scullery between. The front door is on the right-hand side of the recessed centre, and it opens into a lobby at the south end of the hall, which would be a screens passage, but for a subsidiary stair set between the lobby and the back door (Fig. 9). As the steps in the photograph indicate, the ground floor is raised above cellars forming a semi-basement.

Turning right, we will look first at the panelled parlour (now the study), because this contains the earliest woodwork from the Wallers' house (Fig. 2). Almost identical panelling is to be seen in the parlour of the Old Parsonage at Brenchley on the other side of Tunbridge Wells (COUNTRY LIFE, June 7, 1946); indeed, the resemblances of detail are so close that we may be certain that the same craftsmen were responsible for the woodwork in both rooms. The treatment of the linenfold panels is precisely the same, and in both instances the stiles between the panels have a peculiar idiosyncrasy, being decorated with fluted motives in pairs. The frieze of scroll-work, with scrolls ending in dragons' heads, the narrow pilasters dividing the panelling, and the carved consoles surmounting them are other common features. In this Groombridge room a smaller Tudor fireplace was utilised, leaving an area round it to be filled up with miscellaneous panels. The width of the original fireplace is indicated by the pair of carved spandrels occupying the full width between the pilasters. At Brenchley there is a wide fireplace surmounted by carved spandrels of wood of similar proportions. There, too, a Renaissance panel, carved with a trophy of arms and armour, balances an heraldic panel over the middle of the fireplace.

5.—THE NORTH END OF THE HALL CHAMBER SHOWING LATE-16th-CENTURY PAINTED PANELLING. The portraits are of Isabel, wife of Philip Packer, and her four daughters

In the Brenchley room a panel above the door is dated 1573 and the heraldic panel over the fireplace has the initials EF carved above the quartered shield of Hendley. Elizabeth, eldest of the three daughters and coheirs of Sir Walter Hendley, of Corshorne, in Cranbrook, married as her second husband George Fane, of Badsell, in Tudeley, who died in 1571. So, in 1573, she was a widow for the second time, and she spent the rest of her life at Brenchley, where she became famous for "her memorable hospitalitie" until her death in 1596. Elizabeth Fane's first husband had been William Waller, not the William Waller of Groombridge who died in 1556, but his son of the same name, who predeceased him, father of Sir Walter Waller. Sir Walter, after he had succeeded to Groombridge, bought the Old Parsonage at Brenchley (formerly called the manor of Barnes) as a dower house for his mother. The reason for the occurrence of almost identical panelling in the two houses is thus easily explained.

The shield over the fireplace in the parlour at Groombridge is heraldically unorthodox. It is parted in three, and the dexter coat is intended for Waller (sable, three walnut-leaves or, between two bendlets argent). The other two coats are for Hendley and should be quartered: no doubt, the difficulty of showing correctly the Hendleys' elaborate shield was too great for the carver. It was probably Sir Walter Waller who had his arms thus represented before he married. When his grandfather died in 1556, he was still under age, so that the panelling may be very near in date to that at Brenchley. What is remarkable about both sets of woodwork is the late survival of linenfold and early Renaissance motives more characteristic of Henry VIII's reign. The iron fireback, one



6.—DETAIL OF PANELS IN THE HALL CHAMBER PAINTED IN IMITATION OF INLAY

7.—JACOBEAN PANELLING IN A BEDROOM AND A FINE ELIZABETHAN BEDSTEAD

of those which have always been in the house, may have been made locally, for William Waller senior in his will refers to "the ffarme of the furnaces that is apointed to be buylded" at Hamsell, which is only three miles to the south. The arms of Queen Elizabeth appear on this fireback flanked by fleur-de-lis with the date 1579.

Before going into the hall we will glance at the kitchen (Fig. 8). It is a delightful example of the large old country-house kind and remains in use, although a modern cooker has been installed in the capacious fireplace. The spit racks are still in place, and there are pulleys from the ceiling for hoisting up out of the way the beams, well supplied with hooks, for hanging joints and game.

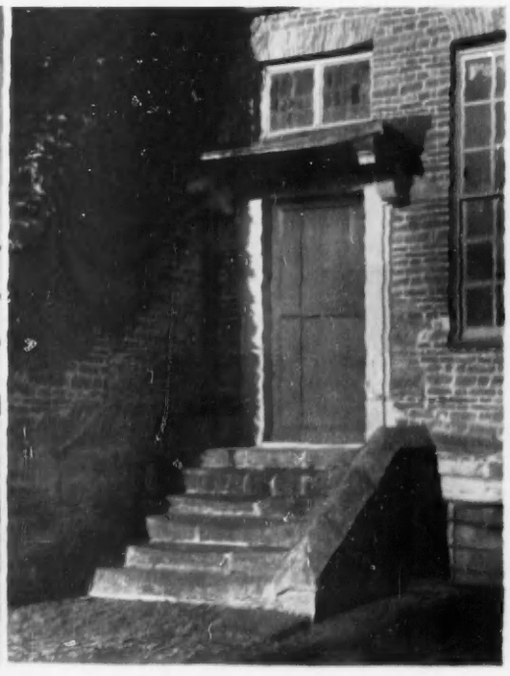
The hall (Fig. 3), which is now used as a dining-room, has Elizabethan or Jacobean panelling, or, perhaps, a mixture of both. Most of the panels are plain, but some are inlaid; the initial W occurs on one. The overmantel, which seems to incorporate a smaller one within the framework of a larger one, is probably of James I's reign and may have been installed in the old house by John Packer. In the Tudor fireplace there is a fireback dated 1604 with the arms of James I. Another bearing the same date is in the room above; as far as is known, both have always been at Groombridge. The hall is furnished with some admirable oak pieces collected by Mr. Mountain's father: a draw-top dining-table, a Jacobean hall-cupboard with inlaid panels and bulbous corner supports, different types of Yorkshire or Derbyshire chairs, and two or three Charles II chairs with cane backs and rich carving. The portraits, which have come with the house, include several of the Clerembault family, connections of the Saints who preceded Mr. Mountain's father at Groombridge. They are by R. A. Constantyn, a little-known Dutch portrait painter, pupil of Theodor van der Schuur; he is known to have painted a portrait of George I. One of the series is seen on the left of Fig. 3.

Above the hall there is a room of equal size called the hall chamber (Fig. 4), where again the walls were lined with re-used panelling below a new cornice. This panelling is remarkable in having preserved in excellent condition its original painted decoration in imitation of inlay (Fig. 6). The designs are in black and gold on a ground of chocolate brown. At the Old Hall, Rochester, Miss Shinkwin has uncovered almost contemporary panelling which is painted with arabesque designs (illustrated in COUNTRY LIFE, March 6, 1953). Another type of painted panelling has strapwork motives, cartouches or "jewels" simulating carving. The painted panels in the Kederminster Library at Langley Marish, Buckinghamshire, are the best preserved examples of this third kind. A late-16th-century date may be suggested for the Groombridge panelling since the framing is of the type usual before 1600, having the mouldings worked on the stiles without being returned round the tops and bottoms of the panels.

The furniture in this room includes two fine examples of mid-17th-century chests of drawers inlaid with ivory and mother-of-pearl. The one seen in Fig. 5 is of the earlier type with doors covering the drawers in the lower section. A little Queen Anne secretaire with twin mirror plates under curved hoods (seen in the right-hand corner) is a particularly charming example. Each plate has a rosette engraved on it at the top. In Fig. 4 two late-17th-century stools with scrolled legs are good examples of the round and the oblong type, and the mahogany tripod table enriched with carving is another excellent piece. The room also contains several notable examples of 17th-century needlework, including a very elaborate stumpwork panel displaying a king and queen each enthroned under a tent-like canopy. The lady with dark ringlets, in the portrait over the chest of drawers in Fig. 5, is Philip Packer's first wife, Isabel, daughter of Sir Robert Berkeley of Spetchley; she is in a blue dress and holds a yellow scarf. Her four daughters, one of them fondling a lamb, are seen in the group above the door.

Mr. Mountain's bedroom at the east end of the north wing has another fireplace of Tudor type and Jacobean panelling (Fig. 7). The initials RW and the date 1611 are carved on a long panel above the fireplace. As Groombridge had passed to the Sackvilles in 1608, the initials raise a problem, but the explanation may be that a Waller continued to live at Groombridge for a time as a tenant of the Sackvilles. The canopied bed with baluster-shaped columns on pedestals is a remarkably fine example, richly carved. The two arched panels of the head-board are inlaid with floral designs and they are set between three terms, two male and one female. One man holds a boar's head, the other has folded arms below a long flowing beard; the woman, a pioneer of her sex in the ranks of the infestation officers, is holding a rat.

(To be concluded)



8.—THE KITCHEN. (*Right*) 9.—THE BACK DOOR IN THE CORNER BETWEEN THE HALL AND THE SOUTH WING

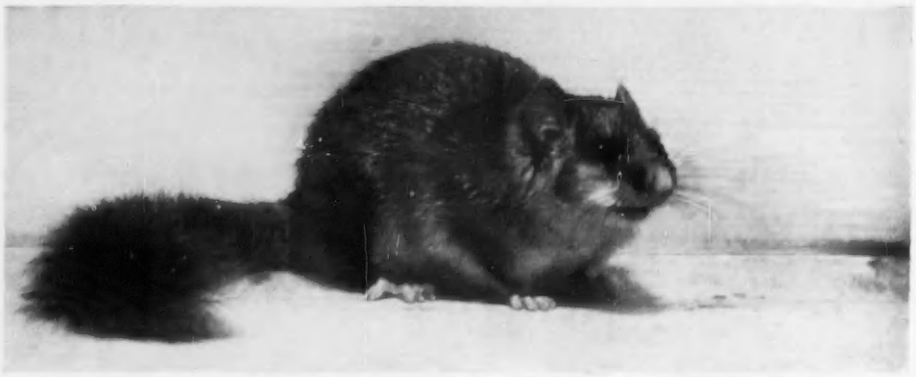
THE EDIBLE DORMOUSE IN ENGLAND

By PHILIP STREET

JUST over fifty years ago the European edible dormouse, *Glis glis*, was introduced into this country, but, although it has managed to maintain itself without further aid or reinforcement, it is still known to only a few people. Perhaps its chief claim to fame is that it was esteemed as a delicacy by the Romans, who reared and fattened large numbers for the feast.

Sometimes when an animal is introduced into a new country it finds fewer enemies than in its native land and is, therefore, able to breed and spread unchecked. There is a danger then that it may become a serious pest, especially if it takes to feeding on crops, and much time and money have to be spent keeping its numbers in check. The stories of the spread of the American grey squirrel here and of the rabbit in Australia are good examples of the unforeseen results of transplanting animals. So far, however, there seems little fear that the edible dormouse is likely to increase beyond control or spread rapidly through the countryside.

The edible dormouse is a good deal bigger than the ordinary dormouse; its body measures about seven inches in length, and it looks much more like a smallish squirrel. In fact, with its grey fur tinged with brown and its bushy, squirrel-like tail nearly as long as its body, it has sometimes been mistaken for a grey squirrel. The squirrel-tailed dormouse is one of its many alternative names. Its dark eyes are emphasised by a narrow ring of black hair surrounding them, and the pupils are horizontal slits, a unique feature among rodents.



THE EDIBLE DORMOUSE, *GLIS GLIS*, INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNTRY IN 1902. Dormice often nest and hibernate in the roofs of houses

Even in areas where it is common, it is not familiar, because it is a nocturnal animal, sleeping in hollow trees or other suitable hiding places during the day time. It is, too, an animal of the woods and forests, especially where oak or beech trees are abundant. At dusk it comes out to feed, leaping from tree to tree looking for the berries, nuts, fruits and seeds on which it lives. It is as agile and good at leaping as a squirrel, but seldom comes down on to the ground unless to move from one tree to another.

Little is known about its breeding habits. It builds a nest of moss leaves and other plant material well concealed in hollow trees or in crevices behind ivy on tree trunks. Its litter is believed to consist of from two to eight young and to be produced in June.

Like all dormice it hibernates during the winter, choosing holes in trees or other suitable cover, and in inhabited areas it may hide away in granaries and sheds and even in lofts of houses. Most animals that hibernate lay down a store of fat during the late summer and autumn, sufficient to keep them alive through the winter; the edible dormouse becomes excessively fat before hibernation. Like the common dormouse, it apparently wakes occasionally during the winter to feed, because whenever it is discovered in hibernation it always has a store of food beside it. In Germany it has always been known as the Seven Sleeper (*Siebenschlafer*), from the belief that it hibernates for seven months.

The Romans took advantage of the edible dormouse's phenomenal ability to grow fat. Large numbers were reared in special oak and beech groves, where they were fed on chestnuts and currants until they were well grown, when they were caught up and placed singly in earthenware jars called *Gliraria*, in which they were quickly fattened. After fattening, they were usually too big to be got out through the necks of the jars, which therefore had to be broken to release them. They were then cooked and served with a sweet sauce.

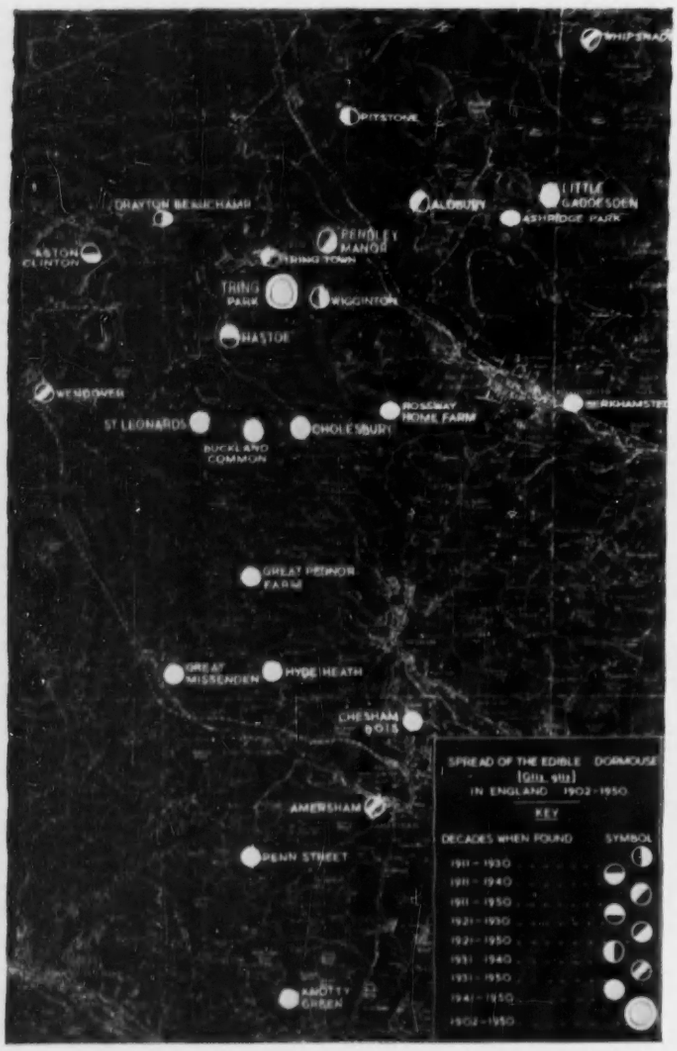
The edible dormouse is widely distributed throughout Europe wherever there are deciduous woods and forests containing plenty of oak and beech trees. Although it may sometimes be found in orchards and even in granaries, it apparently does little damage, and is not generally regarded as a pest. In Germany it is even protected by law. Only in the Caucasus does it approach pest proportions. Here in the lowland districts and among the foothills the average density of the dormouse population is estimated to be at least two to the acre. In poor acorn years considerable damage is done to orchards when large numbers migrate from the woods in search of food.

The present population in this country is descended from a few specimens brought over from the Continent and released in Tring Park by Walter (later Lord) Rothschild early in February, 1902. At first they seem to have increased rapidly, for within a few years fears were being expressed that they might get out of control and do serious damage to crops. For a year or two there was a campaign against them, but since then they have shown little sign either of spreading far afield or of becoming at all abundant. To-day, after more than fifty years of freedom, the edible dormouse has managed to colonise an area of only about a hundred square miles in parts of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Even within this area its distribution is very sporadic and its numbers small. This is an interesting contrast to the disastrous multiplication and spread of the American grey squirrel, which was introduced into England only about ten years earlier.

You might well live in this area for a long time and never see an edible dormouse, but you would stand a much better chance of hearing one. In the late summer and autumn they often find their way into the roofs of houses. During the day they are asleep and no movements betray their presence. At night, however, they become very active and may cause considerable disturbance as they run about and play above the bedroom ceilings.

In many country houses the roof is used as a convenient place for storing apples, which may well attract the dormice. Certainly such houses seem to be visited more frequently than those with empty roofs. The apples provide the dormice with both food and playthings, though fortunately the mice are not destructive, confining their attentions mainly to the few that they eat. Their most disturbing habit seems to be to start rolling apples over the bedroom ceiling in the middle of the night and then to scamper after them, making an incredible amount of noise.

Although a number are trapped every year at this time, many householders welcome their annual visits and cheerfully put up with the temporary disturbances, which fortunately last for only a few weeks before the animals fall asleep, when nothing more is heard of them. With the approach of spring they wake up again and leave the houses to enjoy an outdoor life until the following autumn.



MAP SHOWING THE SPREAD OF THE EDIBLE DORMOUSE IN ENGLAND FROM 1902 to 1950. As will be seen, its distribution is limited and sporadic

The edible dormouse can be kept quite easily in a small cage, but it does not become tame. It will feed almost entirely on apples, preferring eaters to cookers, and will eat two or more a day. It also likes dog biscuits, as well as most fruits and nuts, but will not from choice eat green vegetables of any kind. Even when kept indoors it usually hibernates for some weeks during the winter, occasionally waking up to take a half-hearted nibble at an apple. As with all true hibernators, its temperature falls far below normal during hibernation, and its breathing is much reduced. Except during very cold weather the body temperature of the dormouse fluctuates with the temperature of the surrounding air. Should the air temperature fall below freezing-point, however, the animal's rate of breathing increases and its body temperature becomes stabilised at about 1 degree C.

Rodents are notoriously capable of rapid increase to pest proportions, and because the edible dormouse has so far shown no signs of becoming really abundant, it would not be safe to assume that it will always remain incapable of doing so. After all, the American grey squirrel had lived here for 30 years or more before it became a serious pest. In view of this uncertainty as to the possible future spread and increase of the edible dormouse, the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries decided early in 1951 to collect all the available information about its abundance and distribution, so that the population trend could in future be kept under observation.

The accompanying map summarising the data collected by the Ministry shows clearly the animal's limited and sporadic distribution over the 50 years since its introduction. Generally the number of individuals found in any locality at one time has been small, but there have been one or two notable exceptions. In the mid-'20s, for example, Pendley Manor, not far from Tring, was said to be overrun with edible dormice, and 39 were caught in one year. In 1935 and 1936 a house at Aldbury, also near Tring, was similarly invaded, no fewer than 75 being caught there in the latter year. Only four inhabited nests have ever been recorded in this country, and three of these were found in the roof of this Aldbury house.

Unlike most rodents, the edible dormouse is not very wary, and is therefore fairly easily trapped or poisoned. Indoors, too, it seems addicted to suicide by drowning, large numbers having been found drowned in loft cisterns.

Since 1945 the animals have appeared in fair numbers each autumn in the Amersham area, and the district rodent officer, who has been called in to most of the houses invaded, accounted for 215 of them during the years 1945-51. Since this figure, which works out at an average of about thirty per year, probably represents the majority of those which came indoors in the Amersham district, it is clear that even when the animals are deemed to be fairly abundant in a particular area they are not really present in very great numbers.

Although some people quite like the autumn visits of the edible dormouse, probably the majority of those that seek hibernation quarters in dwelling houses are destroyed, the population being maintained from year to year by those that hibernate elsewhere. Individuals have in fact been found hibernating in all kinds of places besides house lofts. In April, 1949, two were found beneath the bedroom floorboards of a house in Great Missenden when these were taken up to lay electric wiring. They have also been found curled up on a shelf in a nest of leaves and paper; 4 ft. underground in a fox earth; and in various other burrows and holes in the ground in woodland areas.

Nearly every edible dormouse reported has been found within the area covered by the map, but a few isolated individuals have turned up as far away as Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. Probably they had reached these distant localities through the agency of man, perhaps travelling concealed on lorries. Certainly a second occurrence has never been reported from any of these areas.

A complete report on the survey, written by Mr. Harry V. Thompson, a member of the Infestation Control Division, was published in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* in 1953 (Volume 122, p. 1017). The last paragraph of the report sums up the potentialities of the edible dormouse as a pest: "Although it is not considered a serious pest in France it must be remembered that *Glis* does, at times, do considerable damage in other countries. Since its numbers are increasing, albeit in a very restricted area, their fluctuations need to be recorded. Infestations in houses have sometimes been surprisingly large (thirty-three in one instance, seventy-five in another) and the conditions which allow an increase of this nature should be studied. It is known that breeding is interfered with by excessive crowding and too great a dispersion may have a similar effect. Should a critical density be exceeded *Glis* might breed rapidly and become a more serious pest, but while it remains localized and few in number there is no cause for alarm, especially as it is so easily controlled. It should not, of course, be introduced to other parts of the country."

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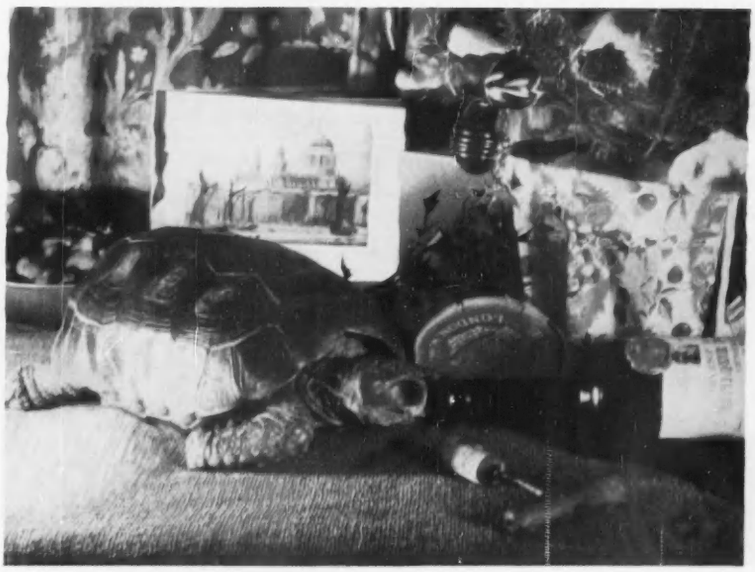
A TORTOISE'S CHRISTMAS

By AUDREY NOEL HUME

IN a household like mine where the animal family greatly outnumbers the human one it is inevitable that they should have a special place in the Christmas preparations and celebrations. Of course, that they should participate on some occasions is highly undesirable from my point of view, but as it is a season of goodwill I try to curb my annoyance. Nevertheless, to see the lower branches of your Christmas tree being viciously attacked by a giant tortoise or to find a pet crow with his beak firmly embedded in the cork of a bottle of sherry are experiences which severely tax one's patience.



TIGELLINUS, THE AUTHOR'S BRAZILIAN GIANT TORTOISE, INVESTIGATING AN EMPTY PORT BOTTLE AT CHRISTMAS

The most interested and the most willing of my animal helpers is undoubtedly Tigellinus, my Brazilian giant tortoise, but then he cannot bear to miss anything that goes on in the house. He first offers his assistance in the decorating of the house, an event which seems to turn Christmas from a far-away date on a calendar to an imminent reality. I try to divide the available holly and greenery between the appropriate rooms, but just when I have the requisite number of piles Tigellinus gives a loud yawn and wearily drags himself out of his bed. It is no use my pointing out that he would be infinitely better off in his bed out of the way of upturned drawing-pins, prickly holly and ensnaring strands of ivy. To begin with he will inspect the mass of greenery and if I am not in time to stop it, sample a holly berry or two. On one occasion he was foolish enough to taste a holly leaf, a painful experience which produced a series of splutters and grunts until I could persuade him to part with the offending morsel. Then he stumps off through the decorations and takes up a position in a doorway where I am sure to risk breaking my neck in trying to avoid him before the afternoon is over. At last when every picture, ornament or windowsill has sprouted some kind of foliage, I sink wearily into a chair and Tigellinus abandons his vantage-point in favour of the hearth.

A few days later when I have regained my strength, another Christmas ritual, the decoration of the tree, is tackled—again with the assistance of Tigellinus and his fellow tortoises and terrapins. The tree is usually placed on the floor in front of the French windows and so he has a good opportunity to examine it very closely. However, it is not the actual tree which he finds so interesting but the coloured glass balls and cones which catch his eye. Completely oblivious of the artistic problems involved in decorating the tree he sits amid lengths of tinsel, lumps of cotton wool snow and artificial frost, quite overcome with the wonder of it all.

On Christmas Day Tigellinus usually, in company with the rest of the house, sleeps a little later and then takes up his accustomed place before the fire while we enjoy the traditional fare. Then when we desire only to bask in the warmth of the fire he comes to life. He begins to push his face along the ground—a sure sign that he is hungry—and he is removed to the kitchen to have his Christmas treat, a bowl of fruit salad specially prepared to suit his exotic taste for melon, pineapple and bananas. Then comes a long draught of water, though one Christmas afternoon when he was shown an empty port bottle I began to wonder whether his taste in drinks was less simple than I had imagined. Then it is back to the fire until the evening, when he demands his nightly meal of raw cabbage and conversation and entertainment have to be endured against a background of noisy crunchings deep gulpings and some noises which defy description.

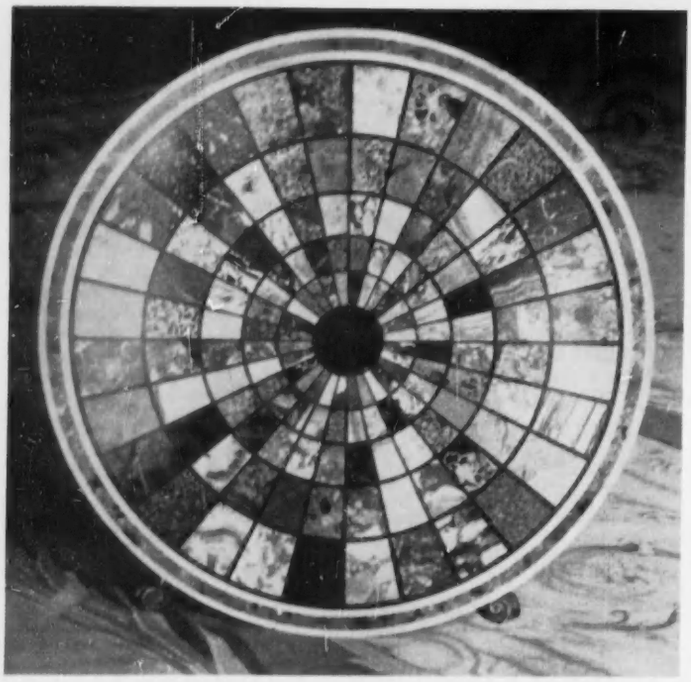
Tigellinus's presents are usually edible and have in the past included a melon from an admirer in Norfolk, a bag of dog meal from a family friend whom I always suspect of visiting us only in order to see him and some over-ripe bananas from the greengrocer. Personally I consider that the cost of maintaining him for the rest of the year exempts me from giving a large present. Therefore, I content myself with replacing a hot water bottle which, through constant kicking and chewing, has become dangerous, or with providing him with a new blanket. After five years I am still unable to give him the best Christmas present of all, but I am hopeful that one day I shall be able to wish Mr. and Mrs. Tigellinus "a very happy Christmas."

DERBYSHIRE MARBLE MOSAIC AND INLAY

By G. BERNARD HUGHES

SHEER weight and massive design were considered commendable features by the house furnisher of the early 19th century. Hence the fashionable demand for various marble and imitation marble furniture manufactures. Sideboards, tables and shelves were topped with marble, but on sideboards this proved fatal to glass and crockery, and in 1834 the *Architectural Magazine* reported that "nobody will buy such furniture now." Tables in a wide range of shapes with marble slab tops—some with marble pillars, too—continued fashionable, however, and from about 1840 to the 1860s such table tops might be inlaid with richly coloured marbles and gemstones quarried in Derbyshire.

When the blue-john deposits of Derbyshire began to fail about 1800 (see *Derbyshire Blue-john*, COUNTRY LIFE, December 3, 1953), after supplying fashionable drawing-room accessories for about thirty years, the skill and experience of the craftsmen concerned began to be diverted to other decorative work, thus establishing the associated crafts of Derbyshire mosaic and inlay work, utilising local marbles, fluorspars and gemstones.



2 and 3.—THE DERBYSHIRE MOSAIC TOP OF A REGENCY MAHOGANY TABLE (*below*), ENRICHED WITH GILDING

1.—MID-19th-CENTURY SLATE TABLE TOP ELABORATELY INLAID. The hard artificial surface is achieved by repeated high-temperature bakings of japanned ornament

The most important of the Derbyshire marbles were black, rosewood, encrinital, russet or bird-eye, and a mottled grey type which might display small corals in its texture. The black marble, quarried in large slabs usually without a speck of white, was finely textured, tough, yet soft enough to be worked easily. This was found an ideal background for inlay work with vividly coloured marbles. The best quality was found in beds varying from three to eight inches thick; normally it was rather thicker. Its quality was finer than that of comparable marbles quarried elsewhere in Europe, and large consignments sawn into working slabs were exported to Italy, Malta and St. Petersburg. Rosewood marble, close-textured and three or four times harder than black, resembled rosewood in appearance. The most beautiful beds are no more than six inches deep and colourful inlay work set in this marble is rare owing to the long time required for cutting, piercing and polishing it.

At first, until about 1810, the Derbyshire workers produced little more than veneered mosaic-work surfaces. Colourful marble and fluorspar slices were cut into irregular shapes and cemented haphazardly upon a flat base of black marble or slate. The surface was afterwards smoothed by rubbing with sandstone and then polished. Console tables with tops made from such slabs were advertised as early as 1800 under the name of scrap or patchwork tables. From about 1810 the ornamental marbles and fluorspars were cut into pre-arranged geometrical patterns and cemented in position. Designs were necessarily simple, for accurate jointing appears to have presented some difficulty. The results were imitative of brecciated marbles rather than of original ornamental effects.

Inlaid work in the style of the Florentine *pietra dura* was developed in Derbyshire during the late 1830s, and the first exponent in this work was John Adam, of Matlock. This was real inlaid work. Openings were cut in thin panels of dark-hued marble into which were fitted colourful marbles and fluorspars. These were selected for brilliancy and depth of colour to make gorgeously plumaged birds, vivid butterflies, other insects and flower sprays and leaves, among which sprigs of jessamine were notable. A table-top in the Willian Ardern collection is inlaid with a wide variety of naturalistic flowers, including rose, convolvulus, fuchsia, lily-of-the-valley and foliage, with a border composed of hawthorn, orange flower, pink African jessamine, white jessamine, wild anemone, pink wild rose, pink convolvulus and white convolvulus.

The Duke of Devonshire's art collection at near-by Chatsworth included a spectacular array of Florentine *pietra dura*, in which inlaid agates, jaspers, cornelians, chalcedony and other hard stones were enriched with more glittering gems, such as lapis lazuli. These he willingly placed at the disposal of master workers for copying, thus fostering inlay work of high quality among the Derbyshire marble men. The master marble-workers were soon commissioning patterns in colour from well-known industrial designers such as Redgrave and Gruner, artists who were familiar with the practical possibilities of the media for which they designed.

Derbyshire inlay followed exactly the Florentine style, but employed soft marbles, some of which were stained to display brilliant effects, instead of hard Italian marbles necessitating much labour, and was thus able to under-sell *pietra dura* in its own markets. Panels of black and rosewood marbles were prepared measuring $\frac{1}{8}$-inch to $\frac{3}{16}$-inch thick.

These were fret-cut into openwork spaces outlining the patterns and into them were fitted marbles and fluorspars cut to exact shape and thickness. Unlike their Florentine prototype, in which hard and soft stones might be intermingled, the Derbyshire version could be polished as a single surface after the whole was veneered upon a thicker slab of marble.

The early Victorian delight in colourful house furnishings influenced a demand for furniture featuring marble inlay by the Derbyshire marble workers: particularly appreciated were the round pedestal tables, such as the example commissioned by Queen Victoria from John Adam. This had a turned and fluted pillar, with the top inlaid with butterflies, flowers and foliage. Particularly fine table-tops came from Ashford-in-the-Water, where the finest of Derbyshire marbles were then being quarried. Eventually, Derbyshire inlay lost its purely local character by including more vividly hued materials such as malachite from Russia, aventurine and other ornamental glass from Venice and marbles from Northern Italy.

By 1850 there were more than fifty master craftsmen operating mosaic and inlay workshops in Ashford-in-the-Water, Bakewell, Buxton, Castleton, Derby and Matlock, making tables, chests, bookcase doors, cupboard panels, chessboards and other furniture in Florentine inlay, as well as a wide variety of small inexpensive objects in mosaic, such as boxes, paperweights and standing crosses on stepped plinths. By the mid-1890s only one firm remained. Signed examples of Florentine inlay are not infrequent, but the name of the maker was engraved in some inconspicuous corner. Hall and Tennant, Selim Bright, J. Turner and J. Tomlinson invariably signed their finest work. Signed mosaic work has not been noted.

Preparation of the marble panels necessitated a series of processes requiring much time and patience. The first battery of steam-powered saws was introduced into the marble industry by the firm of Brown and Son, of Derby. Each of these machines, considered marvels of their period, was capable of cutting slabs of marbles into thin, perpendicular panels by means of twenty-four toothless saws of soft iron operating simultaneously and fluxed with a continual stream of sharp sand and water. These were fitted into a sliding frame attached to vibrating poles extending to the engine crank.

Panels free from the veins and vents to which black marble is subject were selected for table-tops. The shape, usually circular but sometimes hexagonal or octagonal, was then marked on the surface and cut with a mallet and pointed chisel. This was attached to an iron lathe chuck by means of resinous cement, and the spindle was screwed into the lathe. The only tool used was a bar of fine steel measuring about thirty inches long and ¾-inch square, drawn to a point and well tempered. This was pressed against the slowly revolving marble from which it spelched off small pieces.

The table-top was then ready for grinding. The revolutions of the lathe were increased and a piece of coarse, hard sand-stone applied with running water until all tool marks were ground out. A finer piece of sand-stone was then used to remove the coarse scratches of the previous one, and so on with a few other and finer stones until all scratches were obliterated. Flour emery was then applied with a piece of cotton cloth, followed by white oxide of tin.

The fashionable demand for Derbyshire Florentine work was ruined by the production of synthetic copies first made about 1850 by G. E. Magnus, of Pimlico. This firm issued tables which at a casual glance might be mistaken for inlay work. These table-tops were of slate given an extremely hard artificial surface by bakings of japanned ornament resembling marble. Because slate is available on a more lavish scale and is easier to work then marble, table-tops of large size were produced in this medium at much lower cost than that of Derbyshire inlay. It also had the advantage over marble in its greater strength and comparative lightness. Slabs of slate measuring eight feet in diameter and but half an inch thick were safely used as table-tops. The applied colours were so lasting that washstand-tops, japanned to resemble marble, were scarcely injured by wear.

The marble workers of Cornwall and Devon issued ornamental mosaic work, but the West Country materials were unmanageable for inlay work. The red spotted dark green serpentine from the Lizard area was much used. The cost in 1850 of such marble in unpolished slabs measuring five feet long and 1¼ inches thick, direct from the saw, was six shillings per superficial foot: polishing doubled the price.

Photographs 2 and 3: H. Blairman and Sons.

SEASONABLE LEVITY

A Golf Commentary by **BERNARD DARWIN**

EVERYONE is familiar with the story of the golfer who, on remarking that golf was a funny game, received from his caddie the answer, "Aweel, it's no meant to be funny." In a general way the caddie was right; too deliberate a scheme of merriment at golf can end in irritation and gloom. Yet we may hope that there is a gradation and that at this time of year we may follow Sam Weller's direction as to the mince pies: "Stick a bit o' Christmas in 'em." If we play golf at Christmas we can make of one or two rounds a festival a little out of the ordinary, not by any means necessarily frivolous but seasoned with a little "judicious levity."

I suggest for example, a one-club match. I have sometimes thought that of all the matches of which I have read the one which I should most like to have seen was that played with cleeks between those mighty warriors of old, Bob Ferguson and young Tommy Morris. With what a beautiful clear, ringing note the gutty ball must have sounded off their cleeks, and what an intensely interesting variety of shots they must have played! The cleek, be it remembered, was a magnificent maid-of-all-work among clubs in a way that no modern club can be in these days of modern sets. It was perhaps the most romantic of clubs for the hero-worshipper. Bob Martin's cleek approaches were famous and, a little later, Jack Simpson hit so hard with his cleek that he battered the head into a hoop. If I were a millionaire, with a private course of my own, I should like to give a handsome prize for two modern champions to entertain me and my guests with such a match, but alas! there are no cleeks left for them to play with.

* * *

If any golfers, into whom the Yuletide spirit has entered, accept my suggestion for a mono-club match, what iron will they use? I suppose the choice lies between a No. 2 and a No. 3. The No. 2 will hit the ball farther but perhaps not so much farther as to make up for the superiority of the No. 3 in pitching shots. Indeed, some strong men can punch the ball so far with a No. 4 that they might choose that because of the greater ease of pitching. On the other hand the straighter-faced iron, the No. 2, would suit most people best as a putter, though the great Joe Carr, to the despair of some of his supporters, prefers a No. 3 to a putter on the green. The golfer has so many clubs now that he might find himself in a quandary in having to improvise shots with a single one. Yet I think he would soon catch the knack of it and find it an amusing as well as a liberal education.

If this game is deemed too severe then there is an obviously much more flippant and light-hearted form of it. It is what I think of as the Worlington game, because it used always to be played and, I hope, still is played on that noble course on the evening of the match between Cambridge and the Society. I apologise to the reader if he knows all about it too well, but there may be some who do not and would find it appropriate to their Christmas revels. It is a team game and is generally played five or six a side. Each member of the team is confined to one club and they must play strictly in order—driver first, spoon (let us say) second, No. 3 iron third, and so on down to putter. There is no nonsense as to the captain directing which player is to play the next shot. If it is the turn of the putter and the ball lies under the steep face of a bunker, the player can only whisper to himself the Duke of Wellington's unsympathetic remark: "Sir, you are in a devilish awkward predicament and must get out of it as best you can." Improvisation is here but a mild term for the feats demanded of the player. Playing a chip over a bunker with a driver is by no means easy, especially if the green is fast and there is severe trouble at the back of it. No doubt there is something to be done in the original choice of clubs. A reasonably lofted driver, for instance, is best and there is some scope for ingenuity in the selection of a putting club. How Mr. "Boxer" Cannon could drive with that cleek of his which he called, quite legitimately of course, his putter! I can still see in my mind's eye his ball hit with it soaring far and sure over the black line of fir trees which is so familiar a landmark.

* * *

Another unusual game, which can be as serious as anyone likes to make it, is one seldom played—the worst ball match. Its name sufficiently explains it. It is the opposite of the best ball match; the single player plays against the worst ball of his two opponents. It is a game full of whimsical possibilities, in that there can be the oddest results. I remember a friend of mine who, I fancy, never ceased to believe that I and another friend of ours were a pair of common sharpers who had induced him to play this game with deliberately fraudulent intent. My partner played with incredible brilliance, producing whole rows of birdies; I, though utterly drab by comparison, yet did most of the holes in the right number. Mine was almost invariably the worse of the two balls, but it was little worse than par.

We pointed out to him that this was a wholly exceptional state of things and that the single player wins more often than not, but I am afraid he did not believe us. Yet given that the original conditions are fair in point of handicap, what we said was true. If each of the two players can normally give the single one a third, the match ought to be a good one, and more often than not, in my not very extensive experience, the single man wins. If he has a strain of low cunning in him, he begins by saying to his two opponents: "I am afraid this will be very dull for two great swells like you. You had better have a match between yourselves as well as our little game." If, bamboozled by this flattery, they fall into the trap, they will almost certainly lose their money. They will think too much about beating each other and not enough about their enemy. A will be so pleased at getting a four against the six of his ally B (who bolted at the hole for a half and then missed in coming back) that they will scarcely notice how that creeping, crawling serpent C has done a common-place five and won the hole.

* * *

One more essentially "different" and rather amusing form of golf suggests itself, but it needs, I am afraid, an emptier course than anyone is likely to meet with at a holiday season. It consists simply in playing the course "the wrong way round" and can produce some extraordinarily amusing and interesting shots. At St. Andrews not so very long ago the course was regularly played "out by the left" for certain periods. I only remember to have played it once or twice and have rather forgotten the holes, but anyone who knows the course can think out what they would be like. Some of them, the first for instance, to the 17th green, must be obviously magnificent. Once upon a time I believe it was the more usual way of playing the course, but now "out by the right" is as near as may be universal. I remember trying this topsy-turvy golf almost the last Christmas time I was at Aberdovey—sadly long ago now—and discovering one or two holes far better than the orthodox ones. I don't say it is worth while starting at 8 o'clock of a winter's morning to try it and I fear that would be the only way at Christmas.

NEW BOOKS

THE EXTRAORDINARY VAN GOGH

LAWRENCE and Elizabeth Hanson's *Portrait of Vincent: a Van Gogh Biography* (Chatto and Windus with Secker and Warburg, 15s.) is based largely on the artist's own letters and gives a vivid picture of his tortured genius. Van Gogh's personality was as unusual as his paintings: he had a passionate desire for the good life and a disregard for material comfort, combined with an extreme touchiness, which made him almost impossible as a companion, in spite of his goodness of heart. His character led him finally through madness to self-mutilation and suicide, after he had produced in the short period from 1886-90 those masterpieces which have perhaps more popularity to-day than those of any other painter.

All Van Gogh's life seems to lead up inevitably to those few years—the false starts in business, the study in Brussels and Antwerp, and the move to Paris; then in the brilliant sunlight at Arles he found himself as a painter, and worked incessantly until his sanity left him. The authors leave Van Gogh to speak in his own words as far as possible; we follow him as he plans hopefully for an Impressionist school of the South, which his hero Gauguin would lead, as he struggles with the terrible fear of madness, as he upbraids his loving brother Theo, who supported him for years from a small salary. The minor characters in the tragedy are well drawn—Van Gogh's well-meaning but uncomprehending parents, the street-walker he lived with in the Hague, the kindly postman Roulin who befriended him in Arles, and Gauguin, who stayed with him there for as long as he could stand it. This book is not intended to tell the reader much about Van Gogh's pictures, but it will help him to understand an extraordinary man who saw a sunflower, a wooden chair, a cypress as no one had seen them before him.

RUE À AUVERS, 1890, ONE OF VAN GOGH'S LAST PAINTINGS. From *Portrait of Vincent: A Van Gogh Biography*, reviewed on this page

THE WORLD OF SAIL

THE new *Yachting World Annual*, 1956 (Iliffe, 30s.) contains many photographs of yachts, pages of detailed designs, racing results for 1955 and chapters on yachting topics, from dinghy developments by Ian Proctor to long-voyage planning by Eric Hiscock. The photographs are good, and there is much browsing for the yachtsman.

THE ENGLISH GAME

CRICKET has probably produced more books than any other sport, but *The Game of Cricket* (Batsford, 25s.) is out of the usual run. It contains 34 pictures from the M.C.C. museum, mainly from the collection of the late Sir Jeremiah Colman, with notes by Diana Rait Kerr: these range from the match at the Artillery Ground, Finsbury, in 1743, the Laws of the Noble Game of Cricket of 1785 and representations of games of the 18th and early 19th centuries, to W. G. Grace and the Long Room at Lord's as it is to-day.

The text of the book, modestly described as an "Introduction," is an elegantly written essay by Sir Norman Birkett: it is more a musing on cricket than a history, and has liberal quotations from cricket writers of the past and present—James Love's heroic poem of 1744, Mitford's great elegy on the Hambledon men and Neville Cardus's lyrical prose. Sir Norman points out the interrelation between cricket and the English summer landscape: in spite of the great urban grounds the village pitch is still the game's true home.

Throughout this fine book runs the melancholy that pervades any memorial to dead heroes—those men whose experiments and exploits with bat and ball prepared the way for the modern rulers of Old Trafford and the Oval.

RUNNING THE MILE

GEORGE SMITH, in *All Out for the Mile* (Forbes Robertson, 15s.), tells the story of the athletics event which has roused more general interest than any other. For the mile is perhaps the most dramatic of all races, and demands a rare combination of qualities in the runner—endurance to cover the distance at about 15 m.p.h., ability to sprint if need be, and above all a mind capable of planning a race with regard to both the moves of opponents and the runner's own expenditure of energy. In running, as in other sports, the record of yesterday becomes the commonplace of to-day, and each successive record-holder, from W. G. George in the '80s through Nurmi, Lovelock and Wooderson to Bannister and Landy, has been only the best of a bunch of near equals.

One point brought out by Mr. Smith is the importance of fierce opposition in making a runner give of his best: thus Landy might well have been the first man to run the mile in under four minutes if he had had a Chataway or Brasher to force the pace in Australia. The book contains a number of reminiscences of the great milers by those who have known them well; there are illustrations of most of the record-breakers, and analyses of the fastest miles and 1,500 metres throughout the world.

CARP IN THE CASKET

JACK CHANCE'S *For Poachers Only* (Black, 10s. 6d.) consists of six short stories of fishing adventure, whose heroes are a boy fisherman and his uncle. Mild excitement is provided by fish left in the wrong place, such as a carp in a presentation casket or a pike in a vestry; minor characters include a bishop, a music master and an imperturbable butler. The book is illustrated with drawings by Bernard Venables and Alex Jardine.

WHERE LATIN MEETS SLAV

ANTHONY RHODES'S *The Dalmatian Coast* (Evans Brothers, 12s. 6d.) is a guide to a region with much to offer the traveller who can do without luxury. This coast, from Trieste to the borders of Albania, has been fought over by Greeks, Romans, Turks, Venetians, Hungarians, Austrians and Italians, seeking control of the Adriatic and destroying or creating as they passed. The Latin influence is most noticeable, from Diocletian's great palace of Split to Italianate churches and narrow streets in towns up and down the coast; Slavs have never cared for the sea and stay inland.

Mr. Rhodes points out the extraordinary confusion of cultures in Dalmatia, typified by the rapid changes in the names of towns and streets as one conqueror succeeded another. But Tito seems to have imposed some sort of unity, for the present at any rate. The book is agreeably written, though there are many inaccuracies: for example, "Eg" for "Eigg," "*ad astris*" for "*ad astra*," and on one page "fesinnine" and "Bythnia" for "fescennine" and "Bithynia." There are good photographs by the author's brother.

BRIGHTENING THE HOME

FOR those who are about to set up house or who would like to brighten their present home, H. Dalton Clifford's *Plan Your Own Home Decoration* (COUNTRY LIFE, 15s.) is a useful guide. Mr. Clifford is no doctrinaire decorator, and provides pointers rather than rules to follow; he deals with all aspects of interior decoration from wall surfaces to lampshades. "It is better to have bad taste than no taste at all," he says; a home should express the personalities of its inhabitants and not the whims of fashion magazines or antique dealers. This excellent handbook is illustrated with clear and humorous drawings by the author.

REHABILITATION OF A HORSE

MANY books on schooling horses are technical and, although highly informative, they are curiously unreal. This is not the case with *Riding With Simon* (COUNTRY LIFE, 8s. 6d.), by Mona Sandler, as it is the true—and up-to-date—story of the difficulties of a nervous rider who, out of pity, bought a six-year-old Anglo-Arab standing 16 hands 3 ins., which had been worked almost to death without any proper schooling, as well as being badly underfed, and had produced a variety of resistances and tricks. How this horse of great courage became a good ride and how his owner learned with him and, in her own words, "really felt a part of Simon, instead of someone just sitting on top of him" make a book which it is difficult to lay down. It is illustrated with some delightful photographs of horse and rider and deals with the condition as well as the education of the animal.

SHOOTING WITH BOW AND CAMERA

HOWARD HILL is a big-game archer and photographer, who shoots anything from elephant to bonito. In *Wild Adventure* (Robert Hale, 16s.) he describes encounters with wild animals in America and Africa—cougar-roping and alligator-wrestling, shooting shark under water, photographing lions, grizzly bears, hippopotamus and moose. There is more on photography than archery in this book, for like many hunters the author has come to regard a first-rate photograph after a successful stalk as of more value than a kill. He writes in a racy style with no mock-heroics.

THE January, 1956, issue of *Angling*, published by COUNTRY LIFE, is on sale to-day, price 1s. 6d., and includes the first of a new series of articles entitled *Ways to Better Fishing*, by Raymond Perrett. Other notable articles are: *Adaptability in Angling*, by Coombe Richards; *School for Poachers?* by H. S. Joyce; *Salmon from the Sea*, by Peter McMullan; *Strange Water for the Zulu*, by Jeremy Chuter; and *Tunny by the Ton*, by L. R. Brightwell.

CORRESPONDENCE

FORESTRY POLICY

SIR,—In your leading article on the forestry programme (December 1), you mentioned the rival claims of sheep and trees. There has always been much to be said against the acquisition of hill sheep-pastures by the Forestry Commission; but the problem must now be considered in relation to the present economic position of the country, and, in view of that, the policy of forestry extension is surely indefensible. We are faced with an urgent need to curtail Government expenditure and to reduce unnecessary imports. But forestry in any case means expenditure for a long-deferred return. And the transference of sheep-bearing land to the Forestry Commission involves an immediate reduction in the home production of wool and mutton and a consequential need to import more of both, while afforestation can have no possible effect upon the volume of timber imports for 20 to 30 years.—REGINALD LENNARD, *Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire.*

CHRISTMAS COMMON, NEAR WATLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE

See letter: Christmas Common

CHRISTMAS COMMON

SIR,—At this time of year there are occasional light-hearted references to the hamlet of Christmas Pie in Surrey. The enclosed photograph shows the even humbler Christmas Common near Watlington. This is one of the official rendezvous points for the fire-fighting vehicles of Watlington Forest. Does anyone know how and when Christmas Common and Christmas Pie came by their names? Has there been some corruption of words which sounded like Christmas when spoken carelessly?—BYWAYMAN, *Somerset.*

BULL-BAITING IN BRITAIN

SIR,—In the village of Marnhull, Dorset, where I used to live, there is a ring plainly visible, traditionally called a bull-pit, and in Hutchins's *History of Dorset* it is stated: "Here was a bull-baiting annually May 3. The bull was led in the morning into Valley Meadow, where the tenant of the Estate, by giving a garland, appointed who should keep the bull next year. This practice was by the vigilance of the Revd. Conyers Place suppressed about the year 1762 or 1763, as it occasioned dangerous riots and frequently bloodshed, by the violent contentions of the inhabitants of the neighbouring parishes, who met here at this solemnity. In one of the frays one Bartlet of Moreside was actually killed. It was suppressed for some years but revived again on Mr. Windham's patronizing bull-baiting in the House of Commons, but now after a violent struggle by the rector, totally suppressed."

There is another ring on the west side of the old Blandford-Shaftesbury road, in a corner of the parish of Shroton, in a lonely situation some distance from any village. This is now overplanted by old hazel-coppice and marked on the Ordnance Survey as Bull-pit Coppice, but is very clear as a circular amphitheatre, quite deep, and with a second ditch leading away in a spiral from the entrance.

I can get no information on the subject in general, or on this site in particular, nor as to whether bull-pits were usual in villages, and I should be interested to know if many survive in other parts of England, and where and when the baiting took place.—HONORIA C. BROCKLEBANK (Mrs.), *Charlton House, Shaftesbury, Dorset.*

[Bull-baiting, which is generally believed to have originated in this country at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, in 1209, was widely practised until it was made illegal in 1835, and was not finally suppressed at Stamford until 1839. The baiting was done by specially bred dogs—mainly mastiffs and bulldogs—and was excused on the ground that the exercise made the bull's meat tender. Some account of it is given in the article *Bulldogs Yesterday and To-day*, in last week's COUNTRY LIFE. In some places the bull was tethered to a ring, of which there are—or were until recently—examples at Askrigg, in Wensleydale, and Brading, in the Isle of Wight; at others, such as Leslie, in Fife, and Fossoway, in Kinross-shire, it was tied to a stone. At Stamford they used to run the bull through the town.—ED.]

RABBITS AND FLEAS

From Sir Richard Hughes, Bt.

SIR,—In your article on the second year of myxomatosis the author states that it is not known if the massing of fleas in the ears of rabbits is a winter habit or not (November 17). A good many years ago I was killing rabbits throughout the year for ferret food, and my recollection is that this massing takes place in the spring and seldom in the winter.

As regards buzzards moving east, I was shooting on Ronksley Moor, between Sheffield and Glossop immediately west of the Plowden Dam, on August 13, and saw two on the first drive. I have shot there for a good many years, but have never seen one there before.—RICHARD E. HUGHES, *Hollow Meadows, Sheffield.*

VICTORIAN SILK PICTURES

SIR,—With reference to your recent correspondence about Victorian silk pictures, I thought you might be interested to see a photograph of one of these issued to commemorate the death of Prince Albert, who died on December 14, 1861. It is draped in crape. The artist was J. Bauman and it was produced by Koechlin and Sons, of Basle. I also enclose a photograph of a silken Christmas book-marker with the name of T. Stevens, of Coventry, on the back.—HARRY LEA, 19, *Taptonville-road, Sheffield, 10.*

IT IS AN ILL WIND . . .

SIR,—The interesting article entitled *The Worst Storm in English History*, which appeared in COUNTRY LIFE of November 24, prompts me to send you a photograph of a walnut bureau, the making of which was also connected with the great storm. On the fall is inlaid in boxwood: "A TREE 8 Yards about and Fifty high 100 pound value when blown down by ye great wind 1703 in *Stratton Park*."

The tree was an ancient walnut tree from which the figured veneer was obtained and also the wood to make the solid legs. It would be interesting to trace Stratton Park.

This piece was originally in the famous Percival Griffiths collection. Griffiths bought it before the first World War from a dealer on the South Coast, which suggests that Stratton Park was in one of the Southern Counties. The quality of the cabinet work shows that this bureau and its stand must have been made by a skilled cabinet-maker. The turned wood drawer knobs are original.

Incidentally, in my article *The Secret Drawer*, published in COUNTRY LIFE of December 1, the words coffee-maker in the fourth paragraph should, of course, have read coffer-maker.—R. W. SYMONDS, *Tite-street, Chelsea, S.W.3.*

[The house in question was possibly the Stratton Park in Hampshire, near Winchester.—ED.]

BUREAU MADE FROM A WALNUT TREE BLOWN DOWN IN THE GREAT STORM OF 1703

See letter: It is an Ill Wind . . .

TELEPATHY OR REBIRTH?

SIR,—An alternative explanation to your correspondent's experience of a visit to Stokesay Castle, related in your issue of December 1, would be the Indian doctrine of *punarjanma*, again-birth: that is, that individual consciousness re-embodies through a succession of life experiences. There have been many well-authenticated accounts both in the East and West of people (particularly children) producing the most detailed and accurate

VICTORIAN SILK PICTURE COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF PRINCE ALBERT, AND (*right*) A CHRISTMAS BOOK-MARKER

See letter: Victorian Silk Pictures

descriptions of places, events and persons of which they could not possibly have had direct experience and which are hard to explain persuasively on the grounds suggested by your correspondent. It is said in India that when such spontaneous memory occurs in an individual it is because the reborn consciousness has returned swiftly enough to carry the memory of the preceding existence into the next. Of course, there exist Yoga disciplines, both Hindu and Buddhist, which are intended specifically to invoke such past memory, but that is another matter.

This subtle and highly metaphysical doctrine has been much misunderstood and vulgarised in the West as re-incarnation. It has been re-stated in modern terms by a great modern Indian philosopher, Sri Aurobindo, in a small closely-reasoned book, *The Problem of Rebirth*, which your correspondent might find illuminating. Prof. Denis Saurat, from a quite different angle, has approached the same subject in his book, *Death and the Dreamer*, in which he recounts several experiences similar to that of your correspondent.—MORWENNA DONNELLY, *Ashdon Hall, Saffron Walden, Essex.*

A FINE PLASTER CEILING

SIR,—The drawing-room at Dunsland House, near Holsworthy, in Devon, which has recently been acquired by the National Trust and received a grant from the Historic Buildings Council, was built about 1680 by craftsmen said to have been sent down to Devon to rebuild Potheridge for George Monck after he had been made Duke of Albemarle, and Stowe House for John Grenville, Earl of Bath. Of these three only Dunsland survives; but there is a rather similar plaster ceiling to that in the Dunsland drawing-room at a farm-house called Marhayes just over the Cornish border, near Marhamchurch. Marhayes was part of the Langford Hill estate till 1917 and is said formerly to have been the seat of a family called Rolle. Little remains of its former state except the plaster ceiling, of which I enclose a photograph.—D. C. W. VEREY, *Barnsley House, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.*

[There is a striking resemblance between this ceiling and those at Eye Manor, Herefordshire, illustrated in our issue of September 15, particularly the one in the drawing-room, which has similar panels of scrolling acanthus into which figures, birds and animals are introduced.—ED.]

A CONESTOGA WAGON OF THE TYPE USED IN AMERICA IN PRE-RAILWAY DAYS

See letter: Styles in Wagons

INTENT ON ITS KILL

From the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

SIR,—The following incident may go some way to uphold the veracity of Mr. W. Kenneth Richmond's article *A Likely Story*, which appeared in COUNTRY LIFE of November 17. Early on Sunday, November 20, when I was motoring along a rather unfrequented road to a country parish, I saw a sparrow-hawk on the road devouring its kill. So intent was it on its meal that to avoid running over it I had to stop the car, which came to a halt about a yard from the hawk.

On a near-by tree two magpies were waiting for the fragments that might remain.—ROBERT DERRY AND RAPHOE, *Bishop's Lodge, Culmore-road, Londonderry.*

STYLES IN WAGONS

SIR,—Your recent engrossing article on British farm wagons will, I believe, strike many American readers as unusually interesting. I am enclosing a photograph of a Conestoga wagon, the basic freight vehicle of the trans-continental trails in North America in the pre-railway days. This type of wagon was first made in the Conestoga Valley of Pennsylvania in the early 1700s. Because it was so effective a freight carrier, wagon makers kept locating farther and farther westward, a typical one being Studebaker, who first made wagons in Adams County, Pennsylvania, next in Ohio, and, finally, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The first travel across the Plains and Rockies was in the early type of Conestoga wagons. The Lagans, originally from Lancaster, made Conestoga wagons at St. Louis and at Dubuque, Iowa, for the wagon trains to the coast. Studebaker modified the wagon somewhat and so did the War Department, making a lighter vehicle for immigrant companies and army trains. In the West the Conestoga wagons were first pulled by oxen, later by Missouri mules, eventually sometimes by horses.

According to Carl W. Drepperd, director of the Pennsylvania Farm Museum of Landis Valley, all these wagons and their variants derive from the English road wagon adapted to American needs by Richard Carter, from Warwickshire, England, wagon-wright and wheelwright, who built and established his wagons in the Conestoga Valley before 1750. He developed the medium-sized dished front wheels and huge dished rear wheels, so as to throw the load forward and give more efficient drawbar pull.

Henry Blackman Sell, editor of the American magazine *Town and Country*, and I became particularly interested in the various cargo vehicles and their ancestors and cousins in England in the course of writing *Buffalo Bill and the Wild West*, a biography of Colonel Cody, which is to be published in England next year.—VICTOR WEYBRIGHT, 501, *Madison-avenue, New York 22, N.Y., U.S.A.*

TREES FOR MEASURING

SIR,—Apropos of your letter about ash trees in Somerset (November 10), it is customary in country districts for farmers to keep a measuring stick of 16½ ft. to enable hedges and ditches which are laid and dug by piecework to be measured for payment at so much a "lug" (5½ yards). Since this measure is man-handled, it is desirable for it to be straight, light and tough.

In districts where there is a scarcity of woodland, which encourages upright growth, ash saplings are grown in gardens, as your correspondent describes, for this purpose. All side shoots are rubbed or cut off and the sapling is bent down to achieve this. The one illustrated has obviously been grown much longer than is customary.

Another use these ash saplings are put to is to assist in gathering cider apples, perry pears and walnuts, when ripe, by disturbing the high branches of the tree. These are usually referred to as apple lugs.—W. BRYANT, *Elmsleigh, Cribbs Causeway, Gloucestershire.*

PLASTER CEILING IN A FARM-HOUSE NEAR MARHAMCHURCH, IN CORNWALL

See letter: A Fine Plaster Ceiling

SEA BUCKTHORN

SIR,—In your issue of September 24 there are two photographs of sea buckthorn growing near Tenby, in Pembrokeshire. It would be interesting to know whether this colony of *Hippophae rhamnoides* bears fruit freely.

I am reminded of a day near the end of December, about 25 years ago, when I was staying at Carnoustie, Angus. My wife and I walked along the sands to the Buddon Ness and, rounding the cape, began to walk back a short way inland behind the big sand dunes. It was a glorious afternoon, and the sun was now setting. Suddenly, we saw some distance in front of us what looked like a beechwood in autumn with the sun on it. Of course, we knew that this could not be a beechwood on the sandy links or even a beech or hornbeam hedge. As we drew nearer, the bushes seemed to be on fire, and we saw that it was a colony of buckthorn, covered with masses of orange berries. Gradually, as the sunlight waned, much of the glory departed, but the berries were still beautiful. I never saw on any tree, even holly, such long and close clusters of berries (some were two inches in length). They reminded me rather of the ripe seeds of maize in the way in which they were packed together.

The flowers of the buckthorn are small and insignificant, especially the males. The females are solitary, but in close formation in the axils; the

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males somewhat resemble a catkin. But it is the fruit which is the glory of *Hippophae*. It is worth going a long way to see a sight such as we beheld that day at Carnoustie.—L. G. W. WILKINSON, *Elmwood, Moffat.*

FOR SCARING POACHERS

SIR,—I was interested to see the alarm gun illustrated in COUNTRY LIFE of November 3, and enclose photographs of three guns which were used in the Wyre Forest district, Worcestershire, early last century. The first, similar to one which you illustrated, is shown in two positions: set in one and after it has been fired in the other. The second is an early flint-lock example, and the third is a kind that was fixed to a tree or stump.

These guns were all loaded with blank charges which gave a loud warning report, and should not be confused with the old spring guns, which were loaded with shot or pebbles and could cause serious harm.—J. F. PARKER, *Bewdley, Worcestershire.*

SIR,—With reference to the letters about alarm guns, the type used in my youth was far more primitive. The gun was a muzzle-loader and consisted of a length of iron pipe about 6 ins. long and of a 2-in. bore, stopped at one end by a plate, through which was screwed a nipple to take a cap. Two legs were formed on the outside of the gun. To use it, a vertical rod to fit the legs on the gun, and about 3 ft. long, was set up in the ground through an iron plate about 6 ins. square. A hole was bored horizontally through the rod near the top in which a nail attached to a trip wire was inserted and kept in place by the weight of the gun. Our keeper used to fire salutes with a battery of such weapons in honour of family weddings or on other such festive occasions.—F. L. CONGREVE (Col.), *Landford, Wiltshire.*

LOCAL BUILDING PRACTICE?

SIR,—A building technique I have not previously come across is the use of reed to form a key for plastering, seen in the accompanying photograph of the roof of a pantiled stone cottage in Greetwellgate, Lincoln. It would also form quite valuable insulation, which suggests that the present-day practice of laying felt beneath tiles is not exactly an innovation.

Reed or straw was used also as a bonding material for a kind of cement flooring laid over joists in the Elizabethan wing of Gainsborough Old Hall. Since this is also in Lincolnshire, the use of reed for building purposes other than roofing may have been local practice. Perhaps other readers have noticed it elsewhere.—MARGARET JONES (MRS.), 32, *Forest-road, Moseley, Birmingham,* 13.

REED USED AS A KEY FOR PLASTER IN AN OLD COTTAGE AT LINCOLN

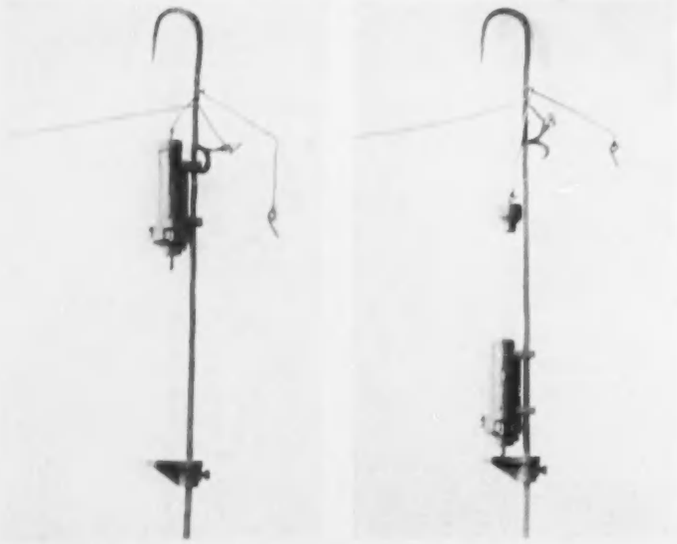
See letter: Local Building Practice?

THE COBRA AND ITS MEAL

SIR,—The other afternoon I came across a young black cobra, about 18 to 20 ins. long. As it moved off the road in front of me, I noticed that in its mouth it had a small rat, or mouse, about two inches long. The snake stopped at the edge of the road and from its appearance it seemed as if it had already eaten something of the same size.

I stopped to watch the all-too-rare sight of a snake eating. The cobra half turned in my direction and, pausing a second or two, proceeded to disgorge its prey, take up the usual belligerent attitude, with hood erected, and advance towards me. Not liking to think it had some venom left, I killed it.

I had always understood that a snake was unable to move when eating, and also that once having started eating it had to go on. Whether the prey was sufficiently small, or not sufficiently far entered for the teeth to have got a proper hold on it or not, I do not know. The fact remains that it did move with its meal and it did disgorge.—DAVID A. FAYERS, *Rambong Sialang Estate, Rampah, Sumatra, Indonesia.*



AN EARLY 19th-CENTURY ALARM GUN IN THE SET POSITION AND (*right*) AFTER IT HAS BEEN FIRED. (*Below, left*) AN EARLY FLINT-LOCK GUN AND (*right*) A GUN OF THE TYPE FIXED TO TREES OR STUMPS

See letter: For Scaring Poachers

FEEDING TITS WITH COCONUT

SIR,—Can you tell me if it is dangerous to the health of the tit family of birds to supply them during the winter months with coconuts? I have been in the habit during the last few years of doing so and have found they have revelled in swinging in the nuts until they have been entirely cleared out. I am accused of doing great harm and I should be glad to know the truth of the matter.—MARY L. COWLIN, *Netherdown, The Avenue, Sneyd Park, Bristol,* 9.

[Provided the halves of coconuts are hung upside down, to prevent the kernel becoming damp, tits are, so far as we know, unlikely to take harm from feeding on them in winter. Major Maxwell Knight, writing in Vol. 26, No. 3, of *Bird Notes*, the journal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, states that such evidence of ill effects as he has been able to discover seems to point to the use of desiccated, rather than raw, coconut, or to the offering of coconut under unsuitable conditions or at the wrong time of year, for example, in the breeding season, when the birds are feeding young, which are unable to digest such food.—ED.]

LETTERS IN BRIEF

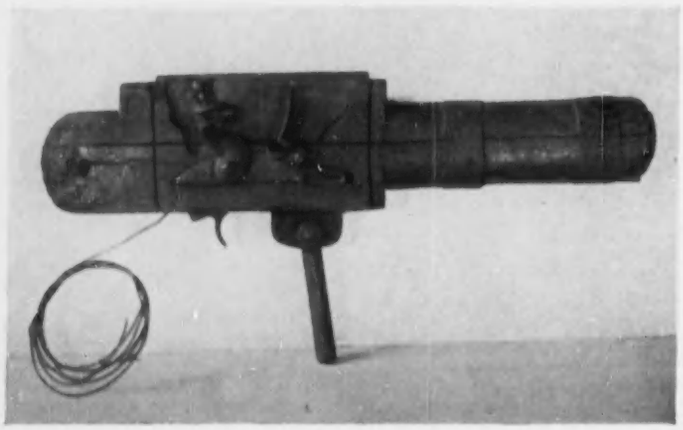
Courts Leet.—I was interested in the letter about courts leet from Mr. Howard Wood (November 24). The island of Portland, Dorset, has a Court Leet that meets in the George Inn, Easton.—ARTHUR DICKER, 17, *Morningham-road, Chingford, E.*14.

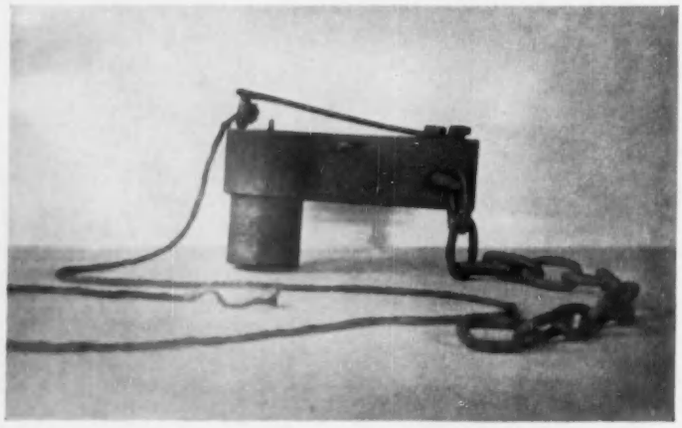
Longevity in Animals.—Your recent correspondence about longevity in horses prompts me to tell you that I had a hunter mare who produced a foal in 1919 at the age of 22. The foal lived till 1947. My wife hunted those two horses with the Hertfordshire for 35 years, the last time in 1940. At the same time I had two gun-dogs, a cocker spaniel aged 16 and a labrador aged 17. I think that this record from one home will be hard to beat. I might add that I am 92.—WILLIAM D. LOCK, *Kimpton, Hertfordshire.*

Who was the Fourth?—Can any of your readers help in identifying an 18th-century beauty whose face is preserved in one of a set of circular coloured mezzotints of that time? These mezzotints—there were originally six—were given by John Penn, son of William, to a Mr. Burton of Lewes, Sussex, Co. Delaware. Three of the four that remain are named on the prints. Those named are Elizabeth Gunning, Duchess of Hamilton and of Argyll, Maria Gunning, Countess of Coventry, and the famous Kitty Hunter. The fourth is identified only by the following poem:

When Sweetness thus and Innocence unite,
Virtue the Soul, and Beauty charms the sight.
The Loves and Graces with peculiar care
Through every scene of Life attend the Fair.

—C. L. WARD (MRS.), *Bramshott, Greenville, Delaware, U.S.A.*





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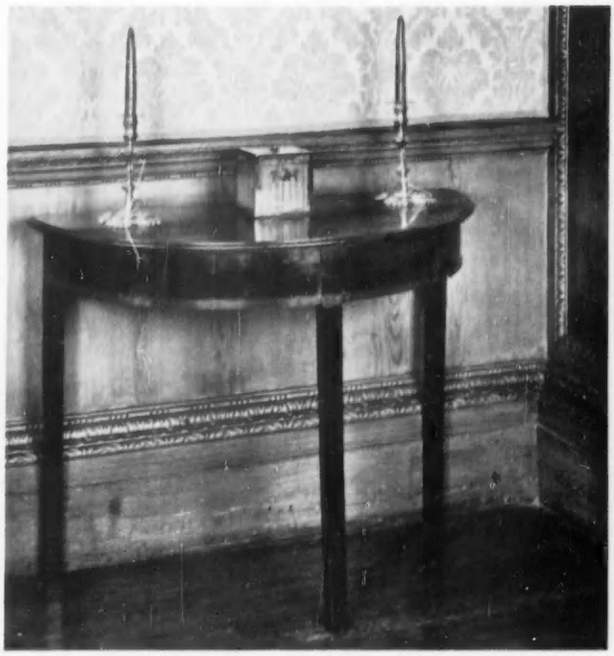

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A CAUSERIE ON BRIDGE

THE NOVELTY SEASON

By M. HARRISON-GRAY

HONESTY is not always the best policy, judging by the reactions of certain readers to a brief note in *Card Play Technique*, by Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener (Newnes, 15s.). When I stated (clearly, as I thought) that it was a fine and authoritative work, I meant just that. When I confessed that I had not had time to wade through the book, I meant that I had not checked every line of the text and each one of the hundreds of examples, but you can take it that I had seen enough to justify the use of the foregoing adjectives.

A Preston correspondent says that he "is not so naïf as to expect a critic to read a book which he sets out to review," but would like "to hear whether the book is worth reading," which strikes me as a non sequitur. How does it help if I pronounce judgement on a book I have not read? I am as cynical as the next man, but I share Dr. Johnson's contempt for those "who would rather praise than read," not to mention those who would rather condemn than read. Otherwise I might have rushed unfairly into print after a glance at the first example to catch my eye:—

West ♠ Q J x x *East* ♠ A K x x
♡ Q 7 2 ♡ 9 5 3
◇ Q x x ◇ K J 10 x
♣ A Q J ♣ K x

West is in Four Spades, and a Diamond is led to South's Ace. When the Four of Hearts is returned, we are told that "West should not even hesitate. However unlikely it may seem that the Queen will hold, he must try it. The play cannot lose, for North will certainly be able to beat dummy's Nine without using up one of the two top honours—if he has one."

This is scarcely a realistic example. Even the president of the Trick Cyclists' Union would think twice before underleading the Ace-King of Hearts at trick 2; what sort of an idiot does he look if West holds (a) the singleton or doubleton Queen, or (b) Q J x x, in which case North, with a doubleton, is robbed of an orthodox ruff?

It is a thousand times more likely that South has made the obvious return up to dummy's weakness from something like K 10 8 6 4 (there is no law which compels him to lead his fourth highest), which leaves North with Ace-Knave only. In theory a top-class defender might win with the Ace, if West plays low, and return the Knave for a third-round ruff, but in practice North is more prone to human error—a mean player will not dream of wasting an Ace to beat the Nine in dummy, and an imaginative one may think that South started with the Singleton Ace of Diamonds. Should you find yourself in West's position, your only *practical* chance is to play low.

Since all the other illustrative hands and the quizzes are of the highest order, I can now give a conscientious opinion; this is a magnificent book for the student of card play. Whatever the critics may say about the "Mollo touch," the fact remains that his brand of wit (facetiousness, if you like) appeals to the people who matter, those who buy his books. If you saw it described the other day as "vulgar without being funny," don't forget that the same style sent up the sales of *Streamlined Bridge*. Mollo wrote a best-seller on rubber bridge. The critic in question wrote a book on rubber bridge.

As for the solitary example I have quoted, the authors of *Card Play Technique* are only human in presenting a novel situation. I suffer from the same weakness, so here are two problems that I encountered in a recent duplicate pairs contest. The first:—

♠ A J 9 5 ♡ A 7 2 ◇ A 6 2 ♣ K 10 3

You are West. Opponents are vulnerable, you are not. North deals and opens, after a prolonged trance, with One Diamond. East, your partner, passes throughout. South bids One Heart, and you decide to lie low for the time being. North then bids One Spade and South Two Clubs; you can take it that the last call, although forcing, is not a phoney "fourth suit" bid, so you pass. North bids Two Diamonds, and South passes with obvious reluctance. What action, if any, do you take?

Personally, I felt that I had been cheated out of my just due. Instead of landing in deep water on a howling misfit, the enemy had had the nerve to stop in Two Diamonds after showing all four suits. All I could do was to let off steam with a "double in rage." Full deal:

	♠ Q 10 6 4 3 ♡ ... ◇ K Q [illegible] ♣ J	
♠ A J 9 5 ♡ A 7 2 ◇ A 6 2 ♣ K 10 3	N W E S	♠ K 8 7 2 ♡ J 9 6 4 3 ◇ 9 ♣ A 6 5
	♠ ... ♡ K Q 10 8 5 ◇ 10 7 ♣ Q 9 8 7 4 2	

Dealer, North. North-South vulnerable.

As he had considered opening with Four Diamonds (pre-emptive bids are popular in this type of contest), North had no marked objection to being doubled in Two Diamonds. East, however, brightly led her lone trump, holding declarer to six Diamond tricks and a Spade in the wash.

Plus 200, you may think, is no great triumph, for you would expect some of the other North-South pairs to be doubled in a much higher contract. Sure enough, in several cases West had the pleasure (temporary) of doubling an opening bid of Four Diamonds. With one accord the East players made the natural lead of a Heart, and North took his only chance of getting home—the *Ten* of Hearts forced out the Ace, so six of North's Diamonds, plus two Spade ruffs in dummy and the King-Queen of Hearts, gave the required quota of ten tricks. At other tables East-West got busy and ended up in Four Spades doubled.

This was my second conundrum:—

♠ K Q J 4 ♡ A ◇ A ♣ A K Q J 8 6 5

An unusual hand, shall we say? You search for the missing Ace by opening a direct Four No-Trumps, but you are rather put out when you hear a prompt Five Hearts from the vulnerable opponent on your left, a pass from partner, and a confident Six Hearts on your right. This really is too much; for once in your life you have a cold Six in your own hand, and all you can do is to double an opposition slam for a beggarly one down.

Now there is this much to be said for match points duplicate; a bottom is only a bottom, you may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. Your partner's thirteen cards may include a few Spades. To name a suit for the first time at the Six level, and a four-suit at that, may not be a world record, but it is certainly a personal one. My bid of Six Spades was doubled by South, all passed, and this was the full deal:—

	♠ ... ♡ K Q 10 8 7 6 3 ◇ K Q 9 6 ♣ 10 2	
♠ K Q J 4 ♡ A ◇ A ♣ A K Q J 8 6 5	N W E S	♠ 10 9 6 5 2 ♡ ... ◇ 7 5 4 2 ♣ 9 7 4 3
	♠ A 8 7 3 ♡ J 9 5 4 2 ◇ J 10 8 3 ♣ ...	

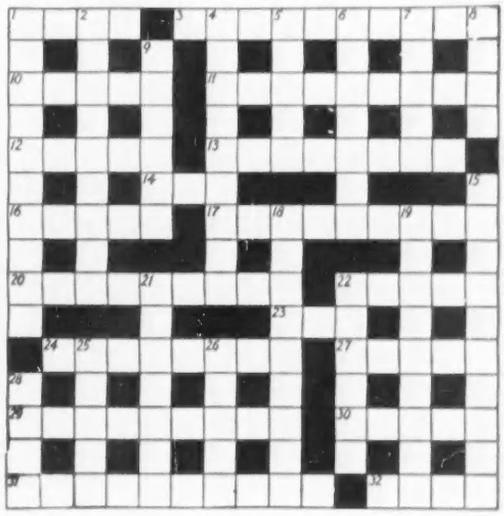
Dealer, West. North-South vulnerable.

The little woman sitting East had brightened visibly. "Here's something that will please you," she said, referring to her void in the enemy suit. "Extremely valuable," I said with misplaced irony.

North had led the King of Diamonds. When I played my high Spades, South held off till the third round and then forced out my last trump with a Diamond return. For a moment I was worried. How could I enter dummy in order to draw the remaining trump? Somehow, when you hold a singleton Ace, it seems a little hard to have to ruff it—an unusual example of the fabulous *grand coup*. As you will see, my partner's faith in her Heart void was vindicated.

CROSSWORD No. 1350

COUNTRY LIFE books to the value of 3 guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 1350, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than ***the first post on the morning of Wednesday, December 28, 1955.***



Name.....
(MR., MRS., ETC.)

Address.....

.....

ACROSS

1. The one broken daily is not the speed record (4)
3. Not caverns (anagr.) (10)
10. "But the —— of the Serpent is over them all" —*Thomas Moore* (5)
11. It can be relieving where an office is concerned (9)
12. She is altogether in the Hellenic tradition (5)
13. Like a new paragraph (8)
14 and 23. Fruit for mother and offspring (6)
16. "Melting melodious words to —— of amber" —*Herrick* (5)
17. A shift may be advantageous (9)
20. They sound entirely appropriate for holding lawyers' briefs (9)
22. Shorter version of 31 across (5)
23. See 14 across
24. Road to make a fish go about (8)
27. Not what Jason's followers went in search of: a more recent discovery (5)
29. Meaning not being self-sufficient, it would appear (9)
30. To start with, one may be drawn to this game (5)
31. Soil of England or her ships may yield it (10)
32. The responsibility is ours, it seems (4)

DOWN

1. Advice from an orphan about his well-fed sister ? (10)
2. Composer of trial acts (9)
4. Grandfathers, perhaps, but not necessarily clocks (9)
5. Flat (5)
6. Unlike the uncrowned king (7)
7. Miss Holt of the Forest (5)
8. They pull without oars (4)
9. These have their ups and downs (6)
15. Unused pots in astounding form (10)
18. No longer one when set down (9)
19. In the glen (anagr.) (9)
21. The spell is able to cause a fall (7)
22. For them the pace of life has not accelerated (6)
25. More important part of footwear? (5)
26. Nationality more than flower (5)
28. Used in submarine navigation (4)

NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.

SOLUTION TO No. 1349. *The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of December 15, will be announced next week.*

ACROSS.—2, Rodomontade; 7, Erode; 8, Assistant; 10, Lynmouth; 11, Heat waves; 12, Glands; 15, Split infinitive; 20, Mantua; 21, Man-at-arms; 23, Ethereal; 24, Parrot-cry; 25, Third; 26, Astronomers. DOWN.—1, Cornwall; 2, Recondite; 3, Death; 4, Opiate; 5, Titian; 6, Dances; 7, Eulogist; 9, Sheep-farmer; 13, Filaments; 14, Derailed; 16, Intrepid; 17, Salads; 18, Fairer; 19, Manton; 22, Style.

The winner of Crossword No. 1348 is

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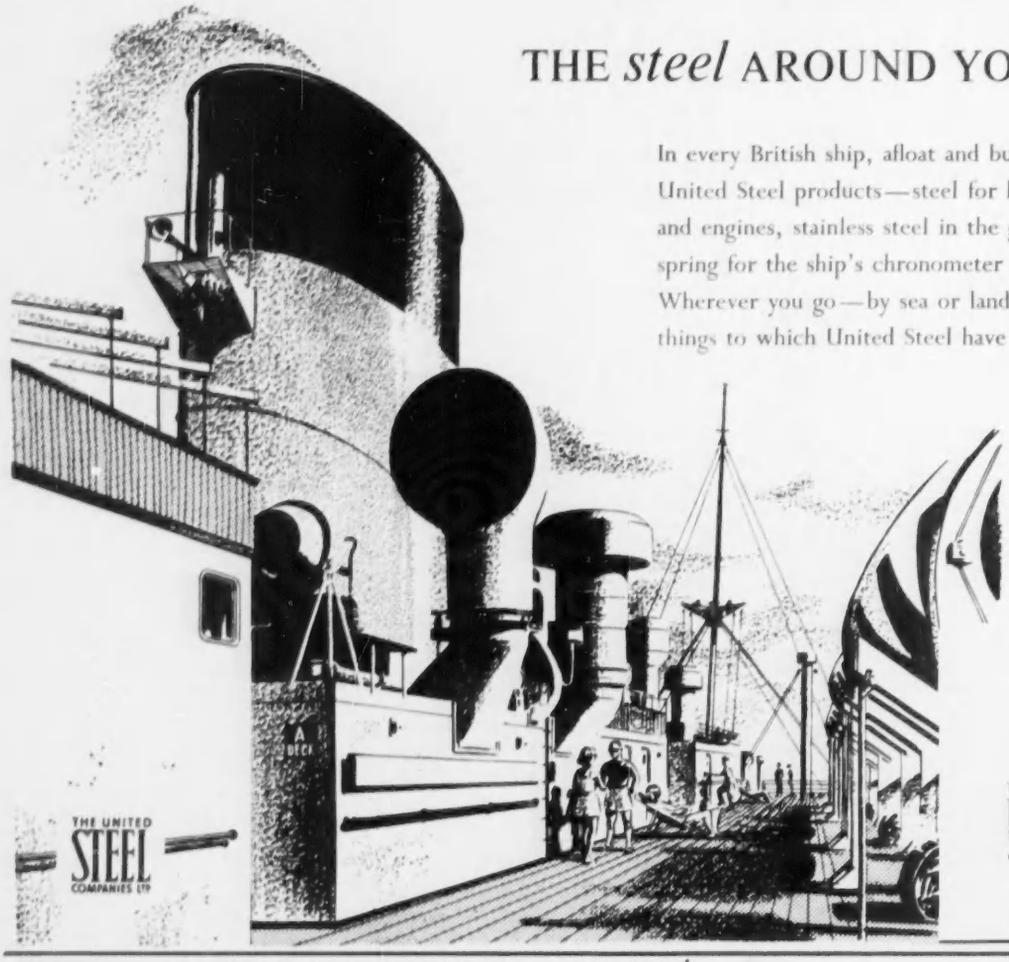

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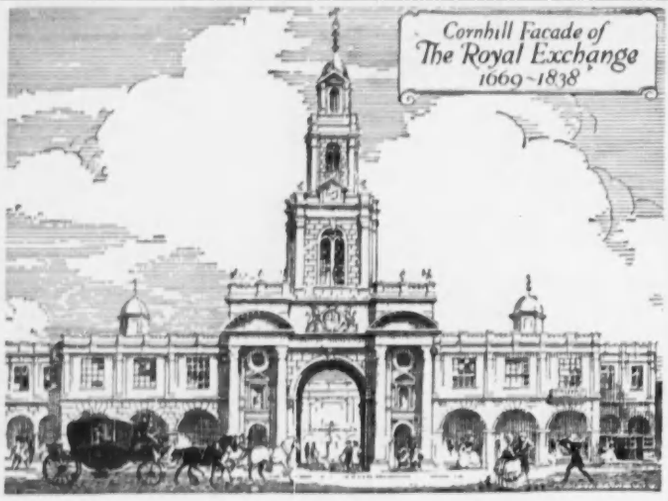
P24



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CARS DESCRIBED

THE DAIMLER CONQUEST CENTURY

By J. EASON GIBSON

THE Daimler Conquest of 1953 was one of the liveliest cars to have come from the Daimler factory, but it was further improved, largely as a result of experience in the 1954 Monte Carlo Rally, and the production followed of a new model with the rather cumbersome title of Conquest Century. The second part of the name indicates that the developed horsepower is 100, compared with the 75 b.h.p. developed by the normal Conquest—a large and useful gain in power.

A new light alloy cylinder head is used, which increases the compression ratio from 6.6 : 1 to 7.75 : 1. The diameter and lift of the valves have been increased, and the valve timing has been modified. Instead of a single Zenith carburettor, two S.U. carburettors are used, in conjunction with a new inlet manifold. Besides these improvements to the breathing of the engine, steps have been taken to exhaust the burnt gases more efficiently. Twin exhaust manifolds are now used, in conjunction with a straight-through silencer. The increase in power has not been obtained solely at maximum engine speed, for there are worth-while gains at 2,000 and 3,000 r.p.m. of about 5 and 10 b.h.p. respectively. Not all the changes to the engine are to increase power: to allow for hard driving at higher engine speeds the valve-seat inserts have been modified.

To allow full advantage to be taken of the improved performance the brake-lining area has been increased. The car now has a figure of 117 square ins./ton compared with the figure of 89.5 square ins./ton on the normal Conquest model. The front suspension is unusual in that the springing medium is laminated torsion bars, which are used with normal wishbones. The rear suspension is by semi-elliptic leaf springs, and the suspension of all four wheels is controlled and assisted by Girling telescopic hydraulic dampers. The Girling brakes are hydraulically operated on the front wheels and mechanically operated at the rear. When in the off position the brake pedal is rather far from the floor, which makes a pronounced movement of the right foot necessary when one is changing position from the accelerator to the brake. Like all Daimler models the Century is fitted with a fluid flywheel and a pre-selective gearbox. The gear required is only selected by the steering-column-mounted lever, and actual engagement does not occur until the gear-changing pedal is depressed and released. This transmission system simplifies driving considerably, and the least skilful of drivers can obtain great smoothness, a fact which can be demonstrated by starting from rest on a level road in top gear. One particularly good feature of the Daimler is that the chassis lubrication is automatic.

The manufacturers have not abandoned the luxury features of the Conquest in an effort to gain more performance; in fact, the Century is more comfortable than the Conquest. The position of the rear seat has been modified, so that there are four inches more leg room, although this has been gained at the expense of the luggage boot; included in the standard equipment are two suitcases. The dimensions and placing of the air entry for the car heater are such that little benefit is felt from it at low speeds, but as the speed rises the heater's effectiveness increases noticeably. Certain of the minor controls, which are spread across the middle third of the polished wood fascia, are inconveniently far from the driver. The interior finish and comfort of the body are very good, the separate front seats in particular being luxuriously upholstered and the squabs very well shaped, so that one is held in a comfortable position, without any tendency for the passenger to slide about, or for the driver to use the steering wheel as a support on corners. The steering wheel is telescopically adjustable, which feature, combined with a wide range of adjustment on the driving seat, allows drivers of very different sizes to find a comfortable position. Swivelling ventilators are fitted to the rear quarterlights, as well as in the front doors; the rear ones act most effectively as extractors of the used air.

In spite of the increased engine performance my first impression on driving the car was that it continued the Daimler tradition of smoothness and flexibility. With proper use of the transmission system the full power of acceleration on a low gear can be used instantly, or the car can be inched through dense traffic. In the latter style of driving only the accelerator and the brake pedal need to be used, which proves very restful when there are repeated stops and re-starts. There is one noticeable difference between the Century and more typical Daimlers—the satisfying surge of power. On both second and third gears good acceleration is provided, and when maximum performance is required speeds of 35 and 55 m.p.h. can easily be obtained on these two gears. On the open road the car settled down at any speed between 60 and 70 m.p.h., and gives the feeling that it could cruise at such speeds all day.

Little brake-pedal pressure is required to check the car, and the increase in the lining area is probably responsible for the fact that no signs of brake fade were noticed throughout my test. The hand brake was fully capable of holding the car on a steep hill, but a rather wooden feeling when it was applied tended to reduce one's confidence in it. The steering both feels and is right; it is accurate and has a good self-centring action, and at the same time allows some indication of the front wheels' movements to come through to the driver's hands. For a car of its size the turning circle is good, and manœuvring in confined spaces is easy—being assisted, of course, by the handiness of the transmission system. On corners there is little roll, and it is possible to take bends at high speeds, with little effort and without disturbing the passengers in any way. On long runs the high back of the front-seat squab allows the front passenger to settle down comfortably.

The two principal instruments are the tachometer (engine speed indicator) and the speedometer, but between them are grouped four other instruments, not always found on present-day cars. They are fuel gauge, ammeter, clock and water temperature gauge. Their presence draws attention to the lack of an oil-pressure gauge; there is only a warning light for low oil pressure. A rheostat control is provided for the instrument panel lighting, but even at its lowest setting the panel light is on the bright side. The headlights give a very good beam, and when dipped give a good cut-off with adequate spread. Two fog lamps are fitted, carried in the front of the wings, but these might be better if mounted separately, where they could be quickly adjusted to suit different driving conditions. At the moment the beam is too scattered to be of great assistance in bad fog. The windscreen wipers cover a large area of the windscreen, and are not of the self-parking type. Owing to the high seat position the driver obtains good vision, although, as the bonnet is high and the front wings separate from it, there are few drivers who would find it possible to see the left-hand wing. The placing of the mirror, in relation to the rear window, gives a wide angle of vision to the rear, and the glass rear quarter-lights help to make reversing easy and accurate. I found that the glass deflector strips fitted to the rear end of the front window openings were most effective; both front windows could be dropped an appreciable amount without unpleasant draughts.

Experimentally I took the Century well off the beaten track, and I found that, while the car was comfortable in town traffic and stable at high speeds, it accepted farm tracks and worse without trouble. One section of my test route, which is certainly as bad as the worst Belgian *pavé*, could be covered either fast or slow, and although it was obvious that the suspension was working hard the occupants were quite undisturbed. Combining the traditional smoothness of the Daimler with a new liveliness, the Century should appeal to many motorists. The advantage of incorporating an automatic system of chassis lubrication is a point that will appeal to many busy drivers.

THE DAIMLER CONQUEST CENTURY SALOON. It combines improved performance with the traditionally roomy body

THE DAIMLER CONQUEST CENTURY

Makers: Daimler Co., Coventry

SPECIFICATION

Price	£1,759 7s. 0d. (including P.T. £587 7s. 0d.)	Brakes	Girling hydro-mech.
Cubic capacity	2,433 c.c.	Suspension	Independent (front)
Bore and stroke	76.2 x 88.9 mm.	Wheelbase	8 ft. 8 ins.
Cylinders	Six	Track (front)	4 ft. 4 ins.
Valves	Overhead	Track (rear)	4 ft. 4 ins.
B.H.P.	100 at 4,400 r.p.m.	Overall length	14 ft. 10¾ ins.
Carb.	Two S.U.	Overall width	5 ft. 6 ins.
Ignition	Coil	Overall height	5 ft. 5 ins.
Oil filter	Full-flow	Ground clearance	7 ins.
1st gear	17.47 to 1	Turning circle	34 ft.
2nd gear	10.05 to 1	Weight	27¾ cwt.
3rd gear	6.71 to 1	Fuel cap.	15 galls.
4th gear	4.56 to 1	Oil cap.	10 pints
Final drive	Hypoid bevel	Water cap.	18 pints
		Tyres	Dunlop 6.70 x 15

PERFORMANCE

Acceleration	secs.	secs.	Max. speed 89.5 m.p.h.
30-50	Top 10.0	3rd 7.1	Petrol consumption 19.5 m.p.g. at 45 m.p.h. average
40-60	Top 11.4	3rd 9.0	
0-60 (all gears)	16.0 secs.		

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THE ESTATE MARKET

FARM-LAND VALUES

"WHAT price is agricultural land to-day? This question, absurd though it may seem, is one that is asked from time to time by 'city buyers,' who are presumably disappointed at not finding farm land quoted in the *Financial Times* at, say, 55¼-56½ per acre!" So writes Mr. N. J. Hodgkinson, a well-known auctioneer and estate agent, commenting in the December issue of the *Chartered Surveyor* on farm-land values, and he goes on to point out that when one is considering trends in the market price of this commodity it is extraordinarily difficult to generalise, since much will depend on the type of land, the purpose for which an investment is made and the financial position of the purchaser.

A HEDGE AGAINST DEATH DUTIES

IN this connection writes Mr. Hodgkinson, it may usefully be pointed out that the term "a good investment" may be misleading, inasmuch as what may be a good investment for one person or body may well be a bad investment for another person or body, owing principally to the tax angle. For example, a farm on which the land is inherently good, but on which the buildings are poor and out of date would be a bad investment for a non-tax-paying body, such as a university or college, but might be a good investment for a high sur-tax payer who has ample capital with which to carry out improvements and who is able to claim tax relief under Section 314 of the Income Tax Act, 1952. Again, any type of agricultural land that is available at a reasonable price is probably a sound purchase for an aged investor or for one who is in ill-health, on account of the hedge that it affords against death duties.

PREMIUMS FOR RENTING

SO far as the trend of the market for farms for occupation is concerned, Mr. Hodgkinson suggests that the premiums for vacant possession that were a feature of the post-war market have virtually disappeared owing to the difficulty that farmers experience to-day in finding the money to finance the purchase of the freehold in addition to paying the ingoing valuation, stocking the farm and keeping sufficient working capital to run the concern, though these premiums are still much in evidence when it comes to renting a farm. As for rents, there is no doubt that the rents of reasonably good, well-equipped farms have tended to increase, a development that is contrary to theory, in that whereas costs of production have risen steeply there has been no comparable increase in the price of farm produce. But, as Mr. Hodgkinson points out, there is a justification for increases in rents, since they had been kept for years at far too low a level, and where they have been increased by 10, 20, 30 or even 50 per cent. they should really have been doubled or perhaps even trebled.

RESPONSIBILITY OF LANDLORDS

A POTENT factor in farm-land values in these days is the provision, on an increasing scale, of fixed equipment and machinery, for without adequate fixed equipment and labour-saving machinery most farmers would find it impossible to make a living. But, as Mr. Hodgkinson points out, it would not be feasible, nor would it be right, to expect tenant farmers to be responsible for all improvements, and it is up to landowners to provide them, with the help of grants made available by the State.

"If these improvements are carried out," he writes, "farmers are only too willing to pay reasonable interest on this capital investment in the form of increased rent."

LINK WITH THE STOCK EXCHANGE

THERE is another factor that exercises a marked influence on farm-land values, and that is the comparable attraction of agricultural land and industrial equities from an investment point of view. It is a subject that has been discussed on more than one occasion in these notes, and it is encouraging to find that Mr. Hodgkinson's views are substantially the same as those expressed here. "Thirty to fifty years ago," he writes, "the price of agricultural land was governed by, and followed to a considerable extent, the price of Consols, the net income being capitalised on the basis of about ½-1 per cent. above the current return on Consols. But to-day the position has changed, and a slump on the Stock Exchange does not by any means necessarily imply a corresponding slump in the price of agricultural land, as there is not the slightest doubt that in times of slump or in times of doubt and uncertainty investors tend to look to land as being about the safest commodity in which to invest in order to safeguard their capital."

HUNTERCOMBE MANOR TO BE SOLD

MRS. REYNOLDS VEITCH has decided to sell Huntercombe Manor, her home near Taplow, Buckinghamshire. Huntercombe, which was the subject of three illustrated articles in COUNTRY LIFE in June, 1949, dates from the 14th century, but it was re-modelled and enlarged by George Evelyn in Charles II's reign, and the two periods are cunningly blended. For example, the mediæval hall, spanned by a great, arch-braced truss, has been preserved, and there is a fine staircase dating from Charles II's time, as well as three superb ceiling paintings by Verrio. The house is offered with three cottages and 55 acres through Messrs. George Trollope and Son, who state that possession of the whole is available.

A property very different from Huntercombe Manor on Messrs. George Trollope and Son's books is Culvers, a farm near Hartfield, Sussex, which Mr. Joseph Rank has built up into a pig-rearing concern. It has a bungalow and two cottages, and the buildings have been converted in accordance with modern principles. The reason for the sale is that the owner has decided to concentrate on poultry.

A successful sale that was completed the other day concerned Staplegrove Manor, a small estate near Taunton, Somerset, for which Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. William J. Villar obtained nearly £17,000, partly at auction and partly by private treaty. The property includes a house (with 18 bedrooms) standing in a park of 43 acres, a farmery, two cottages and some woodland.

FINE FURNITURE

THOSE who prefer genuine antique furniture to modern pieces—and who have the money to indulge their taste—may be interested in some prices obtained by Messrs. Hampton and Sons at a recent sale, since the lots offered, though of obvious merit, do not come into the category of museum-pieces. The sale, which was ordered by Mr. Halsey Janson, included a set of Chippendale chairs (£270), a Carlton House writing-table (£150), two 18th-century book-cases (£150 and £120 respectively), a Georgian mahogany knee-hole desk (£62) and a collection of Bow and Chelsea figures that sold for £74.

PROCURATOR.

FARMING NOTES

FAT CATTLE ALL THE YEAR

DR. JOHN HAMMOND has added his weighty opinion to support the view that farmers producing cattle for the butcher should aim at cutting out the store period altogether, especially the store which lives on rump steak during the winter. He reminded the Farmers' Club that all the overseas countries which send beef here finish their beasts on grass or lucerne. So too in this country our cheapest method of finishing is off grass. It has been reckoned that the comparable cost of nutrients, taking grass as one, is hay two, silage three and concentrates such as oats six; concentrates like cotton and linseed cake which were used in yard feeding before the war are now ruled out by cost. This change results in increased autumn marketing and reduced spring marketing of fat cattle, and the main problem now is to find economical means of flattening out the autumn peak by spreading it at both ends. To fill in the June gap Dr. Hammond suggested that heifers bred by a beef bull would be useful, as they finish earlier than steers, and if kept in reasonable condition through the winter they should, at any rate on early grass, finish by mid-June. He also suggested that cows due for culling from dairy herds could be dried off in early spring. This would help to lower spring supplies of milk, which can be an embarrassment, and also keep up supplies of fresh beef when the market particularly wants it. To carry on to January and February cattle that have not quite finished on grass, silage, fed from a stack on a ley due for ploughing, with some straw and possibly a run on sugar-beet tops can answer well. Dr. Hammond is right in urging farmers to plan deliberately to keep a level supply of fat cattle to the markets through the year.

Pigs in Confusion

THE Fatstock Marketing Corporation blames the Government for the drop in bacon pig prices and the consequent discouragement to farmers who have now got into their stride with supplying the bacon factories with a good type of pig. The real trouble seems to be that the price guarantees for pigs are based on market returns for pork pigs and not on the current realised price for bacon. These two channels of supply are not co-ordinated, and if the market price for pork pigs is good, which it has been recently, the deficiency payments made by the Government on all pigs is small, regardless of the price that the bacon curers can pay for the pigs they buy through the F.M.C. In the past month bacon prices have fallen sharply, but this is not a factor in determining the Government guarantee. There will have to be some fresh thinking about this problem, as it is most important that farmers who are supplying the right type of pig to the bacon factories should be able to rely on a steady price. Many would like to enter into a contract to send a fixed number of pigs at a fixed price for six months or even a year ahead. Probably this could be arranged between the F.M.C. and the bacon factories if the amount of the Government guarantee on bacon pigs could be related to changes in bacon prices. No doubt we shall in time arrive at some such arrangement. Meanwhile there can be little profit in selling pigs for bacon and this outlet takes fully half the pigs that farmers produce.

Farm Incomes

AS noted here already, on 240 farms in the East Midlands the net farm income decreased from £1,732 in 1953-4 to £1,167 in 1954-5, a fall of 33 per cent. These are farms averaging 190 acres, deriving about half their gross income from crops. Partly because of the poor grain harvest in 1954-5 farmers relied less on home-grown foods for their livestock, which resulted in an increased consumption of purchased foods. Of the net costs 18 per cent. were classed as "foods" in the first year and 21 per cent. in the second year. These details are given in *Farm Management Notes*, issued by the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Nottingham, of Sutton Bonington, Loughborough (1s. 6d.). In the same issue Mr. R. Bennett Jones remarks that farmers are increasing their purchases of feeding-stuffs, but they have not increased livestock production commensurately. If profitable sale crops can be grown it often pays to buy feeding-stuffs instead of growing fodder crops. There is also the consideration that buying feeding-stuffs instead of growing fodder may give a farmer more leisure, but will it bring in as much profit?

Dessert Apples

APPLE-GROWERS are worried about market prospects when the further plantings of dessert fruit made in recent years come into full bearing. Will the market for dessert apples be glutted in the absence of definite restrictions on imported apples? In recent years the shipments from Canada and the United States have been very small because Britain has been short of dollars, but this quota is being eased now, and who can say what the situation will be next year? There is no tariff on Continental apples, such as those from Italy and Holland which compete directly in the autumn with home supplies, which are increasing. The census taken in 1951 showed that there were then 62,000 acres of dessert apples in England and Wales. The 1955 acreage is estimated at 65,000 and when the present area is in full production there may be a further 60,000 tons of home-grown dessert apples to be marketed.

Potato Supplies

IT is hard luck on the newly constituted Potato Marketing Board that the Government has felt it necessary so early in its career to allow the importation of foreign potatoes to supplement the home crop. The Board would much have preferred to let growers in Britain have the run of the market until at any rate January or February, and then, if necessary, additional supplies could be brought in. However, the Government felt that it would be too risky to wait, as the Continental crops have not been abundant, and in two or three months' time there might not be any available for purchase. It is the clear duty of the Government to safeguard the supply of an essential food like potatoes, and it is nobody's fault that the home crop was exceptionally light in 1955.

For the Farmer's Desk

A MAGNIFICENT year book and desk diary comes from the *Farmer and Stockbreeder* (12s. 6d.). There is a great deal of information useful to the farmer in his daily work in the office, such as the addresses of the various sections of the Ministry of Agriculture, including the National Agricultural Advisory Service and, equally valuable, a buyer's guide listing the makers of a variety of farm equipment. The diary part is spacious and each page carries a salutary reminder about daily tasks. For instance, in the week beginning June 24 the farmer is reminded that common ragwort can be a serious weed in pastures and he is told how he can best set about eliminating it.

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NEW BOOKS

DRINKS ALL ROUND

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

IF one had time to make a list of the nouns in Miss Nina Hamnett's book *Is She a Lady?* (Wingate, 12s. 6d.) "pub" would come pretty near the top. Here is a typical sentence: "The drinks were very cheap indeed. . . . The atmosphere was quite perfect: one felt completely free to behave as one liked. Drunken bodies were almost nightly carried home." You can open the book where you like and you will find yourself in a pub: in Paris, London or Galway. And sentences like this will rise up at you: "Barney Nugent, the trainer and owner of the winner, was walking about in a pair of black trousers, a white shirt and red braces, with a bottle of champagne in each hand." "I had met Norman Douglas before in Paris, and one day he appeared in the 'Swiss' with Desmond Ryan. After they had finished luncheon he said he would like to see again that nice alcoholic Englishwoman." "We went to the four-ale bar and bought four or five pints of ale, then, with the proprietor, we all moved into the night watchmen's shelter, much to the joy of the watchmen, who were delighted to see so much beer. Rounds and rounds of beer appeared and the night watchmen began to sing." ". . . took me to a small cocktail party. We had been drinking wine in Soho to start with. I left with my host, calling in at the Fitzroy Tavern, and I am sent home, or taken home, in a taxi." In between times, Miss Hamnett paints and draws.

IS SHE A LADY? *By Nina Hamnett*
(Wingate, 12s. 6d.)

THE AGE OF EXTRAVAGANCE.
Edited by Mary Elizabeth Edes and Dudley Frasier
(Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 25s.)

ENGLISH DOLLS' HOUSES. *By Vivien Greene*
(Batsford, 63s.)

PUB-CRAWL OF YEARS

Well, those quotations are enough to show you what the book is like. It is, in short, a record of a pub-crawl that goes on through the years, interspersed with a little work. Is it, then, worth reading? I think so. I would even call it a book of great significance within its class.

Nobody doubts, of course, that the ideal is a sober life dedicated to steady advance in one's profession and the accumulation of what used to be called a "pleasant competence," though the Exchequer has now knocked this latter nonsense on the head, and the steady striving is all that is left, with such joy as we may get out of it. But the fact remains that there are a lot of people who *don't* believe that that is how life may be most profitably lived. The effort, conscious or unconscious, to lead another sort of life, an uninhibited life of outflowing rather than of getting, may well, in some circumstances, drive them over the edge into an excess of their own best qualities. It is as the spokeswoman of people of that sort that Miss Hamnett, through her book, acquires significance.

Another thing is that those who know nothing of this kind of life may well be astonished to find how it proliferates. Writing of a visit to an exhibition of French paintings, Miss Hamnett says: "I liked Toulouse-Lautrec best of all. I also felt thirsty and found myself face to face with Manet's *Bon Bock*. This was too much for me, so I walked out to the nearest pub and had some beer." It is not surprising that she liked Toulouse-Lautrec, for his world is hers, and from these pages you can reconstruct it. It is much wider spread in London than you would think. Talented people who have gone to seed, the lonely and the outcast, boxers, women of the streets, with a handful of the well-to-do and of playboys who like this sort of company make up the abundant population of the book, touching at its fringes artists and writers of great repute. One must not forget that Miss Hamnett was the dear friend of famous men. Gaudier-Brzeska and Modigliani will serve as instances. The disillusioned years that followed the first World War are within the scope of the book. The young captains and majors, who perhaps had dreamed of what England was to be after the war, and who found it very much other-how, drift in and out of the pubs, seeking there—perhaps the only place where they could find it—a lost comradeship that left the world cold for them.

GOING TOO FAR

Yes, it is a Toulouse-Lautrec world all right, a world in which "the most sympathetic and intelligent company I had ever been in" is capable of guying "a fine piece of music of a divine nature" by fitting the words of limericks to its strains. Of course, they go too far.

"Next to our house was a chapel. It was surrounded by a small garden and on Sunday mornings we ran a rival show" with music that sounded "completely drunk" and an "unexpurgated version of Nautical William"—queer conduct for people whose motto was live and let live. "At the evening service they were undisturbed as we were generally drinking in another part of the country." Then there is the story of a poor girl whose effects were to be sold up by a grasping landlady because she could not pay the rent. So death's heads and other effects were bought as disguises, "a large motor car had been hired," and the party descended to harass the auctioneer. "It was a pathetic sale," Miss Hamnett says. It doesn't seem to have occurred to the demonstrators that the money they spent on their lark might have bought in the girl's things or paid her rent. Nor is Miss Hamnett's sense of humour always mine. "He had another story which I think amusing." Amusing! It concerns 150 monkeys that were thrown overboard to drown in mid-ocean.

Miss Hamnett says that a friend who was allowed to read some pages of

an earlier book called it "illiterate." The writing in this one is not bad—at times quite good and direct for its purpose. But occasionally it slips, like this: "My sister was living there at the time so there was less opportunity of my Father and I to have a dispute."

EXTRAVAGANT EDWARDIANS

The Age of Extravagance (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 25s.) is an "Edwardian reader" that has been got together by Mary Elizabeth Edes and Dudley Frasier. Mr. James Laver, in an introduction, says of Edward's decade that "it was probably the last period in history when the fortunate thought they could give pleasure to others by displaying their good fortune before them. All most reprehensible, no doubt, in our egalitarian eyes, and yet it is by no means certain that the general level of happiness was not higher even among the downtrodden masses' than it is to-day. At least success meant something; there was something to succeed *into*, and a novel that sold fifty thousand copies, or a play that ran for five hundred nights, gave you a villa at Le Touquet or a yacht at Cannes."

Mr. Laver has here, I think, put his finger on the profoundest difference between that time and ours. There were few enough who plumped for a villa at Le Touquet or a yacht at Cannes, and there were few enough whose means would have permitted them so to plump even had they wished to do so. The point is that what they had was theirs, to do with as they pleased, and in doing as he pleases a man expresses his personality. A man was as likely to do this by sending his children to a good school as by buying a yacht or a villa. Men being infinite, so are their desires and the satisfaction of their desires, and this made for a richness, a diversity, of life which, if one may so oddly put it, increasingly diminishes.

And so, as I saw it and understood it, the Edwardian age was something more than the age of extravagance. I grew up in the Edwardian decade: it was the second decade of my own life. I grew up in a secluded and rather over-shadowed corner, but one could look out and about, and one saw more than is here accounted for. Too many of the writers in this book write only of that side of the Edwardian age which was influenced by the prejudices and predilections of the King who gave it its name. The King's influence was mainly on a section of metropolitan society and on country house society. Outside that, it is my view that Edward had little influence on the country and that the Victorian age lasted, to all intents and purposes, up to the outbreak of the first World War. Then the whole thing, whether Edwardian or Victorian, collapsed utterly.

GLUTTONY AND INANITY

The writings here assembled are from books already published. They make excellent, if partial, reading, and the writers do not always agree. Sir Harold Nicolson gives us the Edwardian week-end in a great country house—hell's own boredom of gluttony and inanity; while E. F. Benson depicts a similar occasion as a feast of wit and personality. Inevitably, we have Romano's, and the Gaiety Theatre, and the chorus girls who married into the peerage, and the hansom cabs and the "johnnies." This was all happening in the capital, the swollen head of the country, and had no provincial significance.

James Bone's *The Twilight of the Horse* is excellent, though it was a matter of chance that this happened in one reign rather than another. But the place of the horse in the life of those days can hardly be understood by those who did not live in them. So far as my own life went, the horse seemed to be everywhere. Tram horses were stabled next door to our school. I worked successively for a baker, a greengrocer and a butcher, and the horse in each case was as indispensable as the stock-in-trade. And the very first story I remember writing, when I was still at school, concerned a humble hero who showed his worth by stopping the runaway horse attached to the carriage of the lady he worshipped.

There is, happily, a bit about the provinces, notably *Christmas Day* by Frank Kendon, a beautiful piece of work. It has, like most of the Edwardian age, nothing to do with extravagance.

AN ENCHANTED WORLD

Miss Vivien Greene's *English Dolls' Houses* (Batsford, 63s.) contains 148 illustrations. Apart from a short history of the subject, these, with a page or so about each house shown, make up the book, and, to me, *make* the book. Even in these days, three guineas seems a lot of money for a book (on which, John Ruskin once said, few people would spend the price of a large turbot); but rarely could three guineas be better spent. Here you have browseable material to take up and wander in again and again. It is to wander through an enchanted world.

A good fairy, not a wicked one, has struck it all dead for our regard. We wander through the streets and speculate on what is happening behind the solid wall, the closed door. Here the fourth wall is gone or can be easily removed, and there, fixed for ever, are these scores of family groups with all their defences down. The chandeliers dangle from the ceiling. Mama is at the fireside and Amelia is practising her scales at the piano. Papa, presumably, is away in the City, and George at school. It is a feminine world in which little women may learn how to become good wives. If a man appears, he is a footman, or a coachman standing beside a carriage at the open door, or a pantry boy, lonely, fallen asleep. He will never wake; the horses will never set off for whatever may be the destination; Mama will never ring for a footman to put coal on the fire, and Amelia's music will never be heard. That is the fun of it. A gesture, and the illusion is gone. As it is, we may wander here and at will create a thousand dramas and providently cater for these charming sparrows.

THE STORY OF MOTORING

IN *Three-Pointed Star* (Cassell, 25s.), David Scott-Moncrieff, with the help of St. John Nixon and Clarence Paget, has written not only the history of Mercedes-Benz, but, in the section covering the first twenty-five years, almost a history of motoring. The individual stories of Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler are traced from their beginnings until their two firms were merged in 1926, and the fate of the joint enterprise is carried on to the present day. As one would expect, the thread of motor racing runs through the book, but the more normal cars are not forgotten, and contemporary Press accounts are drawn on to describe succeeding new models in the enthusiasm of the times.

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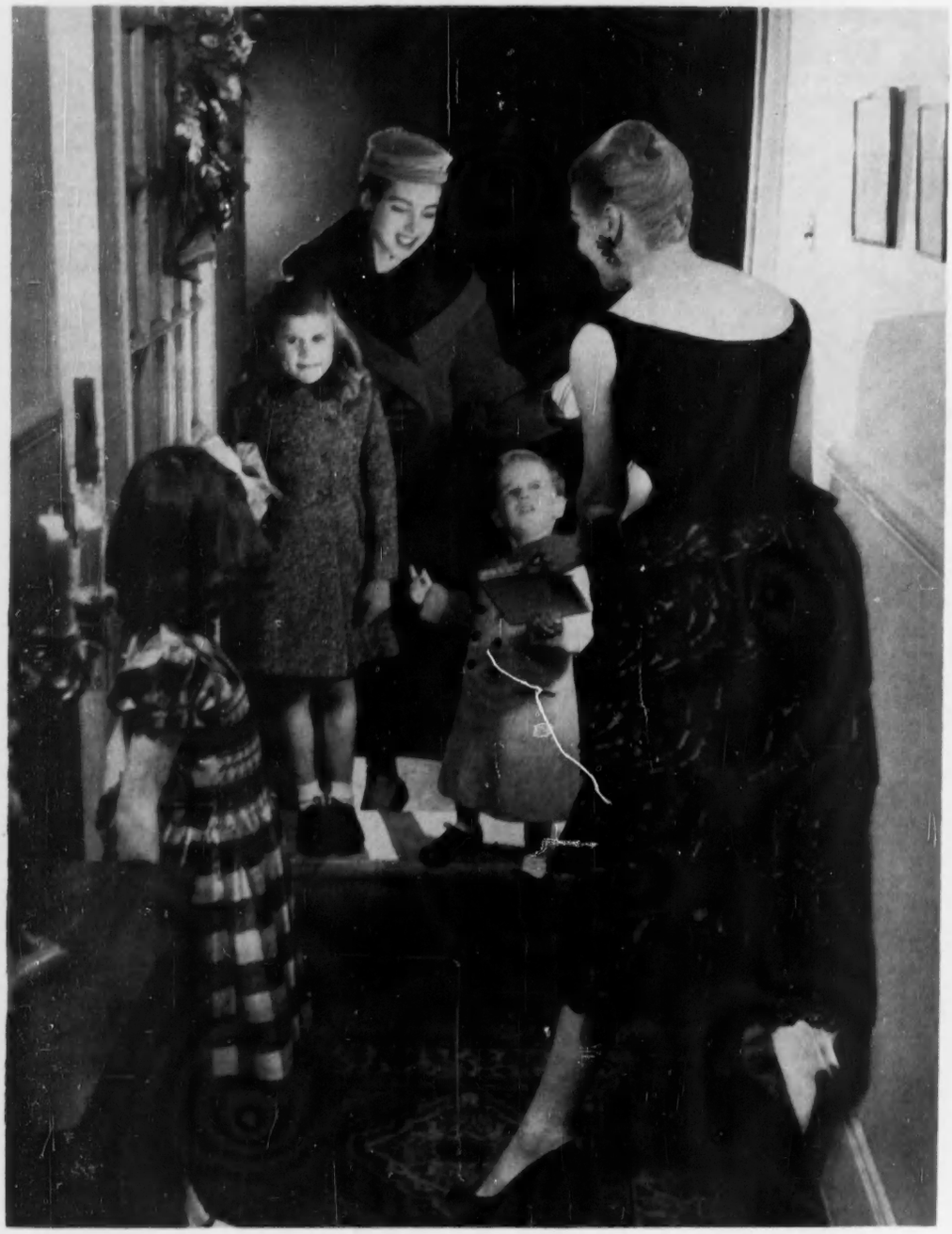
Styled for the New Year



The check smock worn by the little girl is of fine wool. The children's coats are in thick flecked tweed, and the boy's has a blue velvet collar and the girl's a red velvet collar and pocket edging (Bourne and Hollingsworth). The grey velours coat has a Persian lamb shawl collar in a darker tone of grey (Harvey Nichols). The hostess wears black frilled lace over scarlet with a black velvet bodice (Digby Morton)

Photographs by COUNTRY LIFE *Studio*

OVER the Christmas holidays intermittent and rushed shopping sorties are often necessary to supplement a wardrobe and cope with a sudden invitation. Purchases consequently fall into several categories—a gay dress or jacket for a week-end country visit, an exciting cocktail dress or long evening dress, warm boots or a cocktail sweater or stole, a quilted velvet skirt for the possibly cold house or where informal parties are likely.

A recent addition by Jaeger especially designed for the Christmas holidays is a two-piece in thick wool in holly-berry red, a nine-tenths coat with a pencil slim skirt. This is the latest version of the winter suit, gay and warm, and both skirt and coat can be worn with many other items, the skirt with a variety of sweaters that range from the thick sports one with long sleeves and loose waist to the embroidered cashmere when it appears as a cocktail dress. The scarlet coat looks equally smart with a plain black dress or a flecked tweed dress. Their wide mohair stoles in primary colours are also wonderfully useful, being smart with a dark town dress for evening or when worn over a tweed coat on a really cold day. They can be packed easily. Fine black woollen sweaters are shaped like the top of a smart silk cocktail dress so that there is the fashionable outline as well as an often very desirable warmth.

The finely pleated plaid skirts in Terylene that Deréta are making fit into almost any colour scheme in a wardrobe and can be washed out and dried at home. The colourings are the dark blue, green and black mixtures of the Black Watch. Dorville sweaters in broad fancy ribs and knitted from a wool as thick as a rug wool come in all the vivid lipstick reds as well as a strong turquoise and black. Country clothes are definitely gay, for many of these same brilliant shades appear for coats in thick frieze. Dogtooth checks also begin to re-appear for suits, but they are in the muted colour range of sparrow greys and browns with oatmeal—mixtures that, of course, provide the right background for the brilliant accessories and coats.

The circular quilted skirts in silk or velvet are still high in favour; they were introduced several years ago and answer many problems. Prettiest, perhaps, are those in quilted silk in a dark shade with a lining in bright cherry, blue, or lemon, or a scarlet velveteen skirt that is lightly quilted in a shell pattern. In either case the skirts can be worn with a great many different sweaters and bodices and with either high-heeled or ballerina shoes. The same circular shape is being made this season in heavy matelassé silks that have the raised pattern arranged so that it looks like wickerwork. These have been shown in straw colour, in gold and bronze as well as black, and all are smart and uncrushable. There are also puckered nylons that look like smocking or a light plaited crinoline straw hat. The black tweeds flecked with jewel colours are another excellent idea. These skirts are mostly pleated into the belts and there are matching fringed stoles.

Digby Morton added a small couturier collection of party dresses especially for Christmas. They were all short with fitted bodices, but treatments of the skirts differed widely. A white organza kept a rigid bell shape on its stiffened foundation and had a deep band of light black embroidered organdie inlet round the skirt about knee level. Two tiny sleeves were also in the embroidered organdie and dropped below the shoulder. A crisp lace and tulle showed the lace opening over a pleated fan of the tulle underskirt. An emerald green chiffon was gathered fully in soft limp folds into a folded close-fitting bodice that had folds of the chiffon covering the top of the arms.

In the newest collections there have been delightful short jackets in brushed wool in alabaster and milk whites. The long roll collars can be worn spread out or pulled round the throat, and the jackets are cut straight and end on the hipline. Woollen jersey dresses are woven in ribs so that they appear pleated, or are permanently pleated, and for them the strong reds and raspberry pinks are fashionable, as well as milk white.

Fluffy hats and caps are the craze of this winter. The fluffy melusine cloche hats and muffin berets are smartest when they are white, scarlet, or black. The high cossack caps in fur have brought back the long-haired furs. A band of skunk worn tilted slightly back on the head and open at the top will be matched by a cravat. It looks really smart with a plain cloth coat that keeps to a narrow outline. Fox caps in black are also made as a rim of fur that rests on the brow, or the fur bands a shallow black felt beret, or sometimes in the centre of the fur circle the cap will rise to a point. The latest and most dramatic of caps are those of Dior that are shaped like a high folded fez and made in white chiffon or satin.

A trio of delightful evening dresses in the

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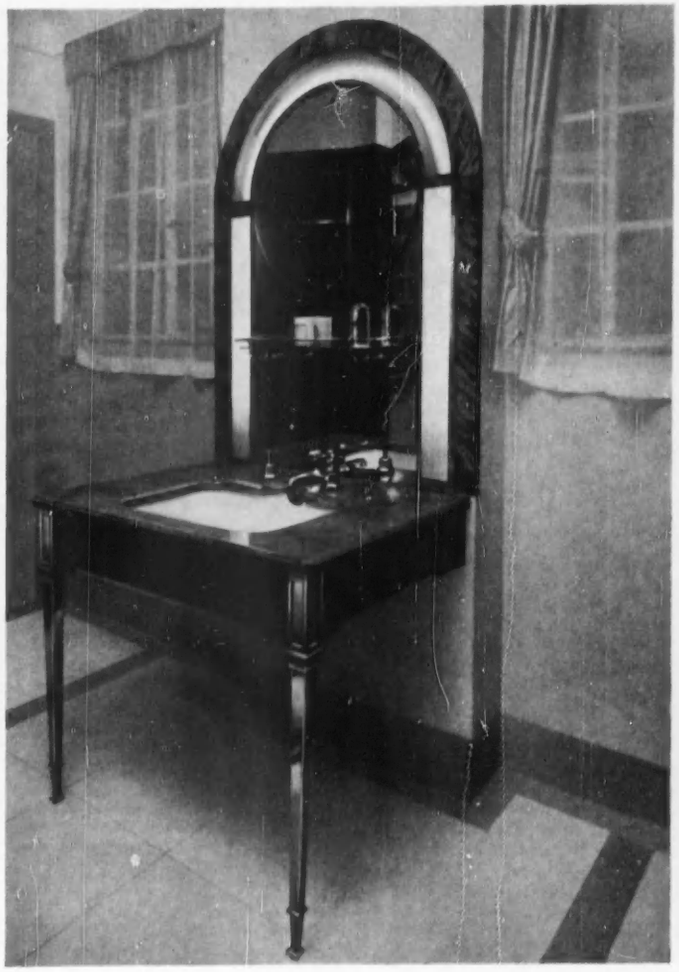

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The party dress on the left is in white nylon appliquéd with red flowers; the other is of yellow printed organdie with a frilled yoke and a yellow ribbon round the waist (Liberty). The rose pink lace evening dress has a looped harem hem of matching pink taffeta (Digby Morton)

latest Susan Small collection present the line for gala dresses. A white chiffon with vast floating skirt is gathered into a bodice that is draped over one shoulder with a border of gold embroidery on one side only of this folded scarf. A satin is in a really lush rose pink, and this has a strapless fitted bodice with a cluster of pink roses tucked in. Another satin is beige-coloured and has a high moulded midriff and waistline, and it also has a billowing skirt.

All the cream and gold tones look particularly distinguished as a long evening dress in satin, either duchesse or the stiffer slipper variety. These pale tints seem to take the dyes particularly well and the polished surfaces gleam. Pinks of all depths are being shown in the collections intended for the New Year from the palest of shell pinks to rose, shrimp and raspberry pink. Magnolia white satins and brocades are grandly embroidered with gold, or a thread is woven through to glint at intervals. Gold tissues and lamés, absolutely untarnishable, bring even greater magnificence. Printed silks patterned with faint ferns or tiny massed blossoms are laid on Chinese white that is actually printed on to the ivory silk ground to make a completely white backcloth. It effectively throws up the pattern to give the utmost value to the colour and shape of the design.

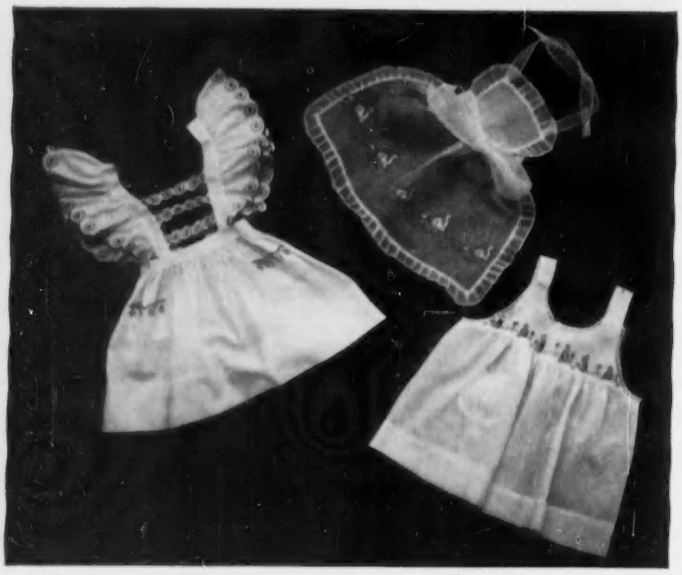
PRINTED leather shoes are one of the novelties promised for 1956. The leather is as fine and supple as a gloving suède. Bally show a sling-back sandal with a single broad band over the vamp in a delicious rosebud pattern on white. A Renaissance print in gold on vellum is quite lovely as a court shoe with high spike heel. A pink champagne tone of pearlised kid makes the perfect sandal for a short evening dress; the kid is used on the heel, the vamp and the strap for the heel, narrow straps of rhinestones running from the base of the sling back and converging on the centre front. They report a distinct lessening of interest in the lower peg-shaped heel.

(*Right*) A fluffy cloche in holly-berry red melusine for a holiday occasion (Simone Mirman)

The amount of pink and red is great. Pink leather court shoes in a sweet pea colour are being shown with light frocks, lipstick red velvet sandals with black or white cocktail dresses, crimson and coral kid court shoes with suits. Coats in every sort of red and pink or red jackets abound; so do fluffy hats. Vivid coral satin jackets and sheath dresses lightly jewelled on the collars of the jacket and the bodice of the dress are outdone in popularity only by the gold tones. Dior is showing vermilion for evening, salmon and peach pinks for linen suits. Victor Stiebel blends two tones of rosy pink slipper satin for his latest evening frock. Both are vivid and the combination is dramatic. The dress billows at the back and is straight in front.

All sorts of lipstick reds and pinks of the brightest possible tints are rampant for the sports accessories, while a lovely shell pink is popular for the fine cashmere sweaters and cardigans. A chalky pink is another shade that is coming in, especially for blouses and shirts and cotton frocks. Blues are stronger. Turquoise and a butterfly wing blue have been brought back into popularity by the Eastern influence that is strong in many of the collections. Bally showed it for court shoes and sandals to wear with the milk white tweeds which certainly made a good foil.

P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.



Pinafores preserve the life of a best frock and Victorian ones are so pretty that no child will disdain to wear them. Cotton is embroidered with circles of scarlet French knots and can be worn as a sun frock also; frilled organdie is appliquéd with nursery animals and a Robia voile has a coloured design on the yoke (Marshall and Snelgrove)

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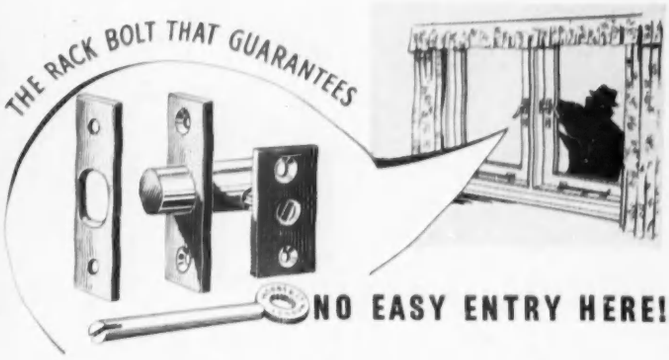

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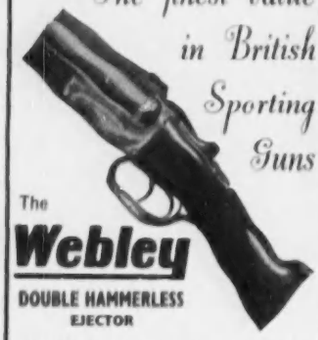

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